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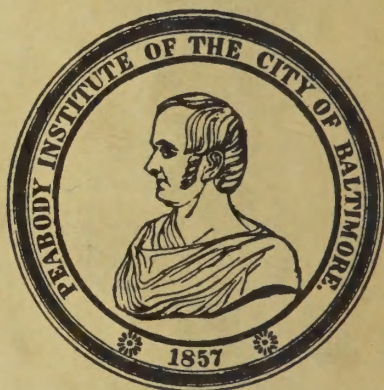






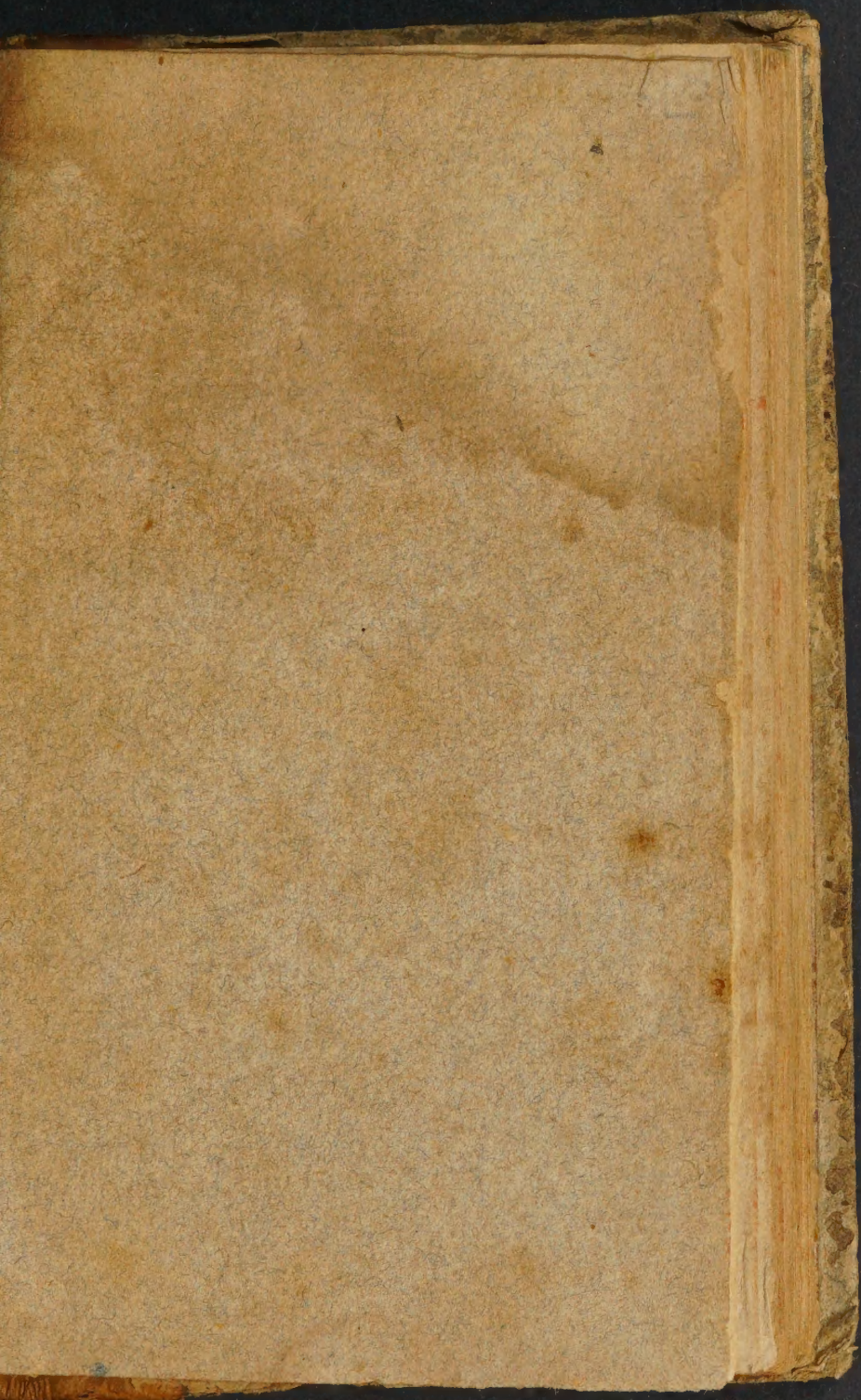
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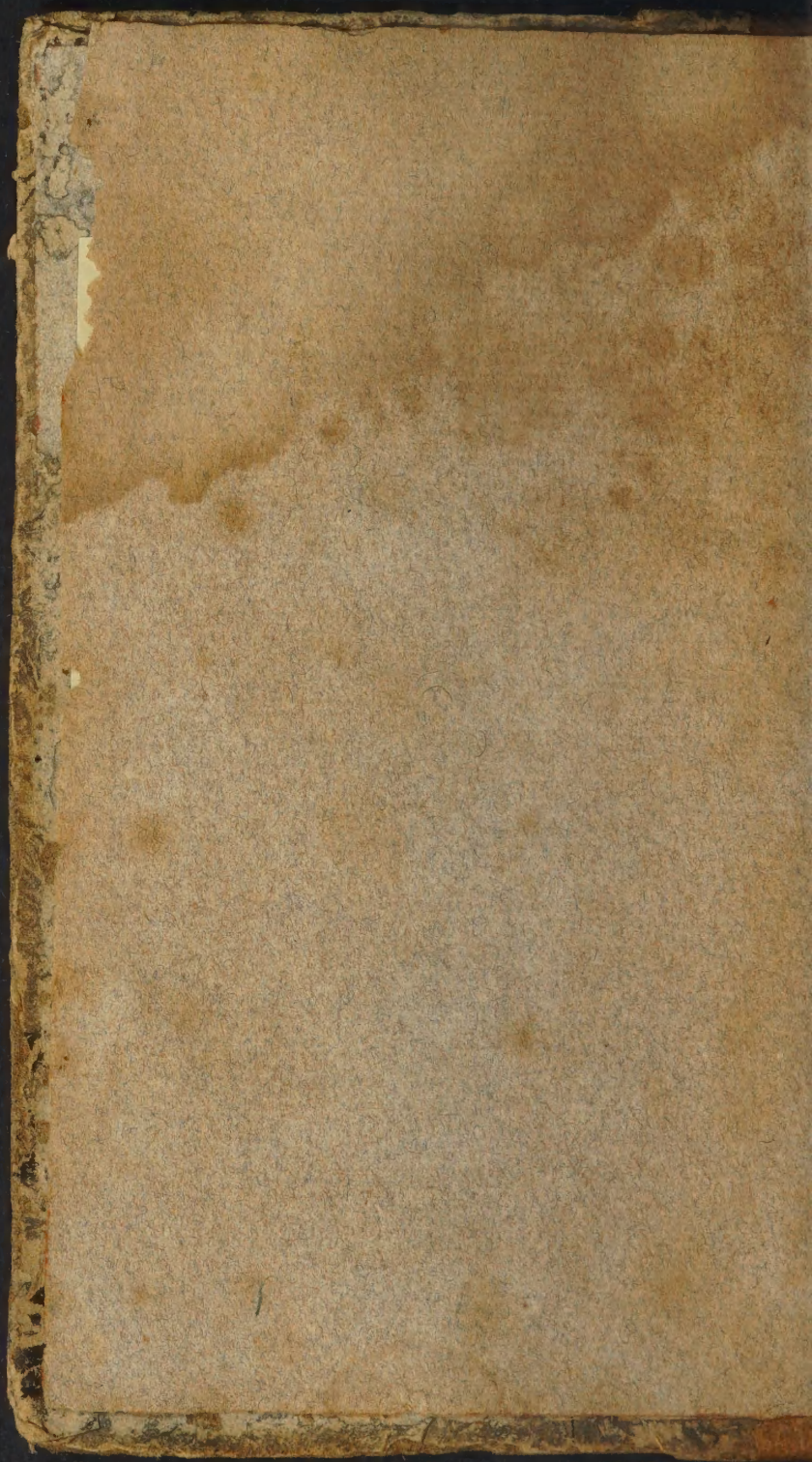


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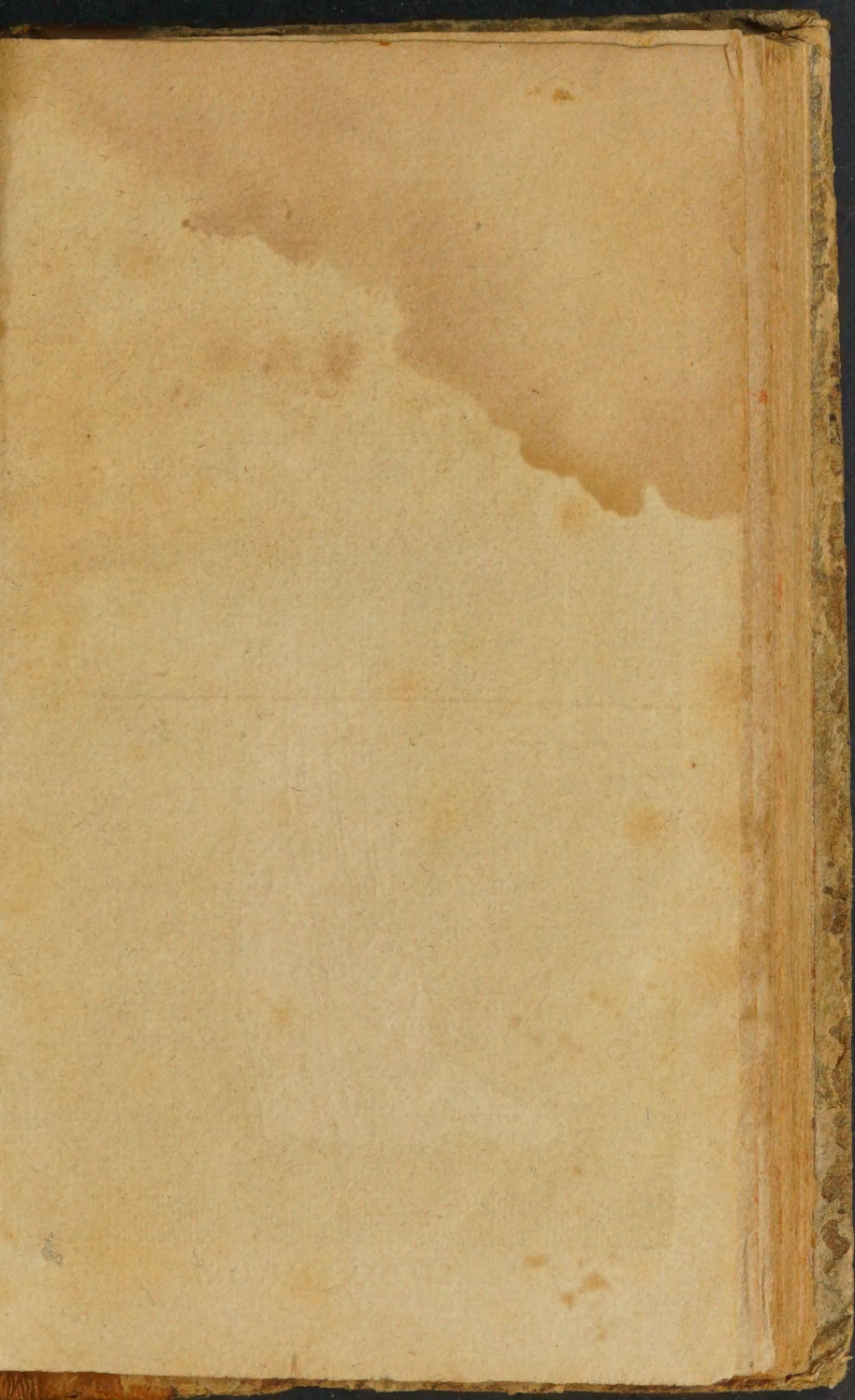
















MARIA MARTIN.



HISTORY  
OF THE  
*Captivity and Sufferings*  
OF  
MARIA MARTIN,  
WHO WAS SIX YEARS A SLAVE IN  
ALGIERS:

Two of which she was confined in a dark and dismal dungeon, loaded with irons, by the command of an inhuman Turkish Officer.

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WRITTEN BY HERSELF.

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TO WHICH IS PREFIXED  
A HISTORY  
OF  
ALGIERS,

*A description of the country, the manners and customs of the natives—their treatment to their slaves—their laws, religion, &c. &c.*

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PHILADELPHIA:  
Printed and sold by Joseph Rakestraw,  
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1809.

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# HISTORY OF ALGIERS.

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*General description of the country of Algiers.—  
Climate.—Sea-coast.—Principal cities.*

ALGIERS is a country which derives its name from its metropolis; and extends four hundred and eighty miles in length, from east to west, along the northern coast of Africa. Its utmost breadth is three hundred and twenty miles; but at the distance of an hundred miles from the sea-coast, that part of Africa becomes a barren desert, almost utterly uninhabitable either by man or beast. Algiers is situated between thirty-two and thirty-seven degrees of north latitude, which corresponds to that of the United States, from Virginia to Carolina, inclusive. It is bounded on the north, by the Mediterranean sea; on the south, by mount Atlas; on the east, by the country of



Tunis; and on the west, by the river Mulvia, which separates it from the empire of Morocco.

The principal rivers, which water the territory of Algiers, rise in Mount Atlas, and run by a northerly direction into the Mediterranean sea. They are seven in number. None of them has along course, or even is navigable; at least none of them is made use of in navigation. It is likely, however, that they might be used for this purpose, were the inhabitants of a more intelligent and industrious character; for some of them are of a tolerable depth. Such is the gross ignorance of the natives in whatever concerns domestic improvement, that there is not a single bridge over any of these rivers. When they are to be crossed, the traveller hath sometimes to wander for several miles in search of a ford, as ferry boats are unknown. If a heavy rain happens to fall, he is forced to wait till the river returns to its usual size.

This country consists of eighteen provinces. The climate is remarkably delightful. The air is pure and serene.

The soil is covered with almost a perpetual verdure. Extreme heat is not common. This description applies to the lands on the sea-coast; for as we advance into the country, the soil becomes more parched and barren. Indeed, a considerable part of the back country is a savage desert, abounding with lions, tigers, leopards, buffaloes, wild boars, and porcupines. And it must be acknowledged, that these animals are not the least amiable inhabitants of this country.

There are few towns of any consequence, though when successively under the dominion of Carthage and Rome, it abounded with populous cities. In this part of the world, elegant architecture has for many centuries been utterly forgotten or despised. Algiers is at the distance of some hundreds of leagues from Arabia: but as this part of Africa was formerly conquered by that nation, under the banners of Mahomet, the name is still applied to a race of tawny and independent barbarians, who wander in gangs about the country, and unite the double professions of a shepherd and a robber. Algiers

stands on a bay of the Mediterranean sea. It is built on the side of a mountain. The houses rise gradually from the sea-shore up the ascent, in the form of an amphitheatre. The town appears beautiful at a distance, when approaching from the water. The mosques, castles, and other public buildings, have a striking effect; but the streets are narrow, and the houses mean. The roofs are flat, so that the people can visit each other, at a considerable distance in the town, without going into the streets. The walls are about a league in circumference, and defended by some square towers and bastions. The port has a pier about five hundred paces in length, which extends from the continent to a small rocky island called the Lantern. On this island, there is a castle with three lines of brass cannon. The town has five gates, ten great mosques, and fifty lesser ones, and is computed to contain an hundred thousand inhabitants. The fortifications are extensive and strong. The Christian slaves are often employed in removing stones from a quarry, at some distance in the country, which they



lay on the sand, to defend the mole from the impetuosity of the waves. This laborious work is never at an end, because the sea constantly washes away the stones, and makes a perpetual supply necessary. One street, which is broad and handsome, passes through the town from east to west; but all the other streets are narrow, incommodious, and dirty. There are said to be fifteen thousand houses, which are commonly built round a small square with a paved court in the centre. Around this court is a double range of galleries, one above the other, and both supported by columns. The palace of the dey stands in the centre of the city. This building is very extensive, and surrounded by two superb galleries, supported by marble pillars. There is a law here, by which any woman convicted of amorous correspondence with a Christian, is thrown into the sea, with her head tied up in a sack, unless her lover chooses to turn Mahometan. Examples of this kind are not unfrequent, as the fair sex in that part of the world are said to be remarkably frail. Six of the baths have been

converted into prisons for the Christian slaves. In each of these, there is a chapel for the free exercise of their religion. Every slave is let out at a certain hour in the morning, and must return at a stated hour at night, in order to be locked up. Each of them is allowed a mattress and a rug for a bed. There are several tolerable edifices without the walls of the town, which add to the beauty of the environs. Among these are a variety of Turkish sepulchres and monuments. One of these monuments contain six magnificent tombs, of a circular figure. They were erected to the memory of six deys, who were, in the course of a few days, successively elected and murdered. There is perhaps no nation in the world, from which we may not learn some useful lesson. With respect to the burial of their dead, travellers inform us, that the Mahometans discover a degree of delicacy, of which Christians have no conception. In our church yards, nothing is more common, and surely nothing can be more completely shocking, than to see graves broke up, a second time, before the per-

son has returned to his original dust. The Algerines, and the other professors of the Mahometan religion, would regard it as an act of the most barbarous sacrilege to disturb the remains of the dead, by opening their graves, at any distance of time, or upon any pretence whatever. Hence their burial grounds in the neighbourhood of a large city, are sometimes ten miles in extent.

Algiers had formerly nothing but rain water. A moor who had been driven from Spain, constructed two aqueducts, by which it is now supplied with abundance of excellent water, from the adjacent mountains. The country around this city is very fertile.



*Customs. Religion. Government. Land Force.  
Corsairs.*

THE present inhabitants of the territory of Algiers, are composed of a multitude of different nations. Among these

are the Moors or Morescoes, who were driven out of Spain about the end of the sixteenth century, and the Arabians who trace their descent from those disciples of Mahomet, who formerly subdued this country. Levantines, Turks, Jews, and Christian slaves, with a crowd formed of the posterity of all these different people, make up the rest of the population. The Moors and Arabs are the most numerous. The former compose the great body of the inhabitants of the towns. But it may be readily supposed, that amidst such a variety of different races, immense numbers cannot be said to belong to any particular tribe or nation whatever. In this country, there are many wandering bands of shepherds who live together in camps, and remove from one place to another as they want pasture for their herds and flocks, or as any other accidental circumstance happens to make it necessary. They sometimes pay rent to landlords, in corn, fruit, honey, wax, and other productions of the same kind. The dey likewise demands a tribute. The excellence of the climate renders this



simple way of living tolerable, though the tents of these people are mean, their utensils of little value, and their lodgings filthy. The family and their domestic animals lie promiscuously in the tents together, except the dogs, who are left on the outside as guards. They raise a considerable number of bees and silk-worms. They subsist chiefly on bread, rice, and fruit. Wine and spirituous liquors are almost entirely unknown.

The dress of the men is only a long piece of coarse cloth wrapped round the shoulders, and falling down to their ankles, with a cap of the same stuff. The women pay some more attention to the ornamental part of dress. The children are suffered to go stark naked till seven or eight years of age. The sheik or chief of a tribe, wears a cap of fine cloth. These people are usually called Arabs; their customs, language and religion, bear a strict affinity with those of Arabia. They are robust and of a swarthy complexion. The men are active, the women prolific, and the children healthy. They have neither to encounter the hardships incident to

the life of a North American savage, nor are their constitutions enfeebled, as is sometimes the case in manufacturing towns, by sedentary and unhealthy employments. When a young man would marry, he drives a number of cattle to the hut where the parents of his mistress reside. The bride is set on horseback and led home, amidst the shouts of a crowd of young people, who have been invited to the nuptial feast. When she arrives at the hut of her lover, a mixture of milk and honey is given her to drink, and a song suitable to the occasion is sung. She then alights, and is presented with a stick, which she thrusts into the ground, and repeats some lines to the following effect: "As this stick is fastened in the earth, so I am in duty bound to my husband; as nothing but violence can remove it, so death alone shall force me from his love." She then drives his flock to water and back again, to shew her willingness to perform any duty that he may assign to her. These previous ceremonies being settled, all the company enter the hut, and the evening concludes with the

greatest festivity that these people are capable of enjoying. Subsequent to the marriage, the wife is obliged to wear a veil. She never stirs from the hut for the space of a month after that time. These are the customary ceremonies in celebrating the nuptial day of marriage among the pastoral tribes of Barbary.

The Moors or Arabs, for the two names appear to be synonymous, are good horsemen, but great thieves. Their principal arms are a short lance and scymitar, though they are likewise acquainted with a bow and the musket. It is dangerous to travel in the country, for fear of being robbed; but persons are said to be in safety if attended by one of the Mahometan Marabouts or hermits. The inhabitants of the sea-coast are perfectly versant in the use of all kinds of fire arms.

Algiers retains the title of a kingdom; an epithet which might, without regret, be expunged from every human vocabulary. It is, however, a military republic, though it can certainly reflect no lustre on that species of government. The dey is elected by a divan, composed from the



army. He seldom secures his office without tumult and bloodshed; and he often falls by the dagger of an assassin. The way in which his authority is exercised, corresponds with that by which it was obtained. When Mr. Bruce, as British resident at Algiers, had occasion to visit the dey, he sometimes found him in his hall of audience with his clothes all bespattered with blood, like those of a carcase butcher. It is a very frequent amusement with him, to cause the heads of his subjects to be struck off in his presence. Mr. Bruce said, that he knew of one man, who was executed for no greater offence, than because a gun-flint was found upon him. His indictment and trial were very concise, "You rascal, what business have you with a flint, unless you were going to conspire against the state?"

The aga of the Janisaries, is the officer next to the dey in dignity and power. The dey has a corps of guards; a very necessary, though sometimes a fruitless precaution; as any private soldier who has the courage to murder him, stands an

equal chance of becoming his successor. Experiments of this description are sometimes made. Since the beginning of the present century, six private soldiers entered into a conspiracy to kill a dey of one of the states of Barbary. They gave him a mortal wound in his palace, and in the midst of a crowd of people. He expired, exclaiming, "Has nobody the courage to kill a villain?" One of the conspirators, the intended successor, instantly ascended the vacant throne, and brandishing his naked cimeter, declared that he would do justice to all! His five associates went about the hall to enforce the title of their new master; and none present seemed to give themselves any disturbance about what had happened. He kept his situation unmolested for about ten minutes, till an old veteran unobserved, took aim with a musket or blunderbuss, and shot him dead. Upon this the five others were immediately despatched by persons present.

The people of Algiers in general speak a compound of Arabic, Moresco, and the remains of the ancient Phoenician lan-

guages. The public business of the nation is transacted in the Turkish tongue, in which also the records are kept.

In Algiers, both men and women spend a great part of their time in indolence; the men, in drinking coffee and smoking; and the women in dressing, bathing, visiting the tombs of their relations, and sauntering in their gardens. The Algerines by their law may have four wives, but they usually content themselves with two or three at the most. The husband seldom sees his wife before marriage, but accepts her upon the description of a female confident. When the match is agreed upon, the bridegroom sends a present of fruits and sweetmeats to the bride, and entertains her relations with a feast and a musical entertainment.

The militia who elect the dey are either Turks or renegado Christians. Their number has been variously stated by different authors, from six thousand five hundred to twelve thousand.

The Musti, the Cadi, and the grand Marabout, are the principal ecclesiastics. The first is the high priest of their religion,



the second, the supreme judge in ecclesiastical causes, and in such civil matters as the civil power does not interpose in. The third is the chief of an order of saints or hermits. These three persons are distinguished by the largeness of their turbans. They sit in the divan a little below the dey, on his right hand. The divan itself consists of about two thousand Turkish officers and soldiers.

The common punishment at Algiers, for offences not capital, is the bastinado, for those, which are so, the bowstring, which two people pull different ways with all their strength, so that the criminal is instantly despatched. The Christian slaves are liable to a variety of punishments. They are sometimes burned, or rather roasted alive. At other times, they are impaled. This is done, by placing the offender on the end of a sharp stake, which is thrust up through his body till it appears above his shoulders. Slaves are sometimes cast over the walls of a town upon iron hooks. These catch by the jaws, by the ribs, or some other part of the body; and the sufferers have been

known to hang thus for several days alive, and in the most exquisite torture. Crucifixion by nailing the hands and feet to walls, is likewise practised.

A Moor convicted of house-breaking, hath his right hand cut off and fastened about his neck. He is then led through the city on an ass, with his face towards its tail. Persons of distinction, for crimes against the state, are placed between two boards and sawed asunder. Women, detected in adultery, are fixed by their necks to a pole, and held under water till they are suffocated.

When an Algerine pirate takes a prize, he examines into the quality and circumstances of the prisoners. If he disbelieves the account that they give of themselves, they are bastinadoed, till he has met with an agreeable answer. Having obtained what information he is able, he brings them on shore, after having stripped them almost naked. He carries them directly to the palace of the dey, where the European consuls assemble, to see if any of the prisoners belong to their respective nations, who are at peace with Algiers.

In that case they reclaim them, provided that they were only passengers; but if they have served on board of the ships of any people at war with them, they cannot be discharged without payment of the full ransom.

Matters are thus settled between the dey and the consuls, what part of the prisoners are to be set at liberty, and what part are to be considered as slaves. The dey has next his choice of every eighth slave. He generally chooses the masters, surgeons, carpenters, and useful hands belonging to the several prizes. Besides his eighth, he lays claim to all prisoners of quality, for whom a superior ransom is to be expected. The rest are left to the corsair and his owners. They are carried to the slave-market, the crier proclaims their rank, profession, and circumstances, and the price set upon each of them. They are then led to the court before the palace of the dey, and there sold to the best bidder. If any sum is offered beyond the price first set upon them, it belongs to the government. The captors and owners have only that



ly that which was originally set upon the slaves. For this practice of buying and selling slaves, we are not entitled to charge the Algerines with any exclusive degree of barbarity.

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*Origin of the present government of Algiers.  
Expedition of Charles V.*

ALGIERS had undergone a variety of revolutions in its form of government, previous to the beginning of the sixteenth century, which it is not within the plan of this sketch to describe, but about that time a sudden revolution happened, which by rendering the states of Barbary formidable to the Europeans, hath made their history worthy of more attention. Horuc and Hayradin, the sons of a potter in the isle of Lesbos, prompted by a restless and enterprising spirit, forsook their father's profession, ran to sea, and joined a crew of pirates. They soon distinguished themselves by their valour and activity, and became masters of a small

brigantine, supported their infamous trade with such conduct and success, that they assembled a fleet of twelve gallies, besides many vessels of smaller force. Of this fleet, Huroc, the elder brother, called Barbarossa, from the red colour of his beard, was admiral, and Hayradin second in command. Their names soon became terrible from the straits of the Dardanelles to those of Gibraltar. Together with their power, their ambitious views extended, and while acting as corsairs they assumed the ideas, and acquired the talents of conquerors. They often carried the prizes which they took on the coast of Spain and Italy, into the coasts of Barbary. The convenient situation of these harbours, lying so near the greatest commercial states at that time in Christendom, made the brothers wish for an establishment in that country. An opportunity of accomplishing this project presented itself, and they did not suffer it to pass unimproved. Eutemi, king of Algiers, having attempted several times, without success, to take a fort which the Spanish governors of Oran had built not far from

his capital, applied to Barbarossa. The corsair, leaving his brother Hayradin with the fleet, marched at the head of five thousand men to Algiers. Such a force gave him the command of the town. He secretly murdered the monarch whom he had come to assist, and proclaimed himself king in his stead. The authority which he had usurped, he established by arts suited to the genius of the people whom he had to govern; by liberality without bounds to those who had favoured his promotion, and by cruelty no less unbounded to all whom he had reason to mistrust. He continued to infest the coast of Spain and Italy with fleets, which resembled the armament of a great monarch, rather than the squadrons of a pirate. Their cruel devastations obliged Charles V. about the beginning of his reign, to furnish the marquis de Comares, governor of Oran, with troops sufficient to attack him. That officer executed the commission with such spirit, that Barbarossa's forces being vanquished in several encounters, he himself was shut up in



Tremesen, and in attempting to make his escape was fortunately slain.

His brother Hayradin, known likewise by the name of Barbarossa, assumed the sceptre of Algiers. He carried on his naval robberies with great vigour, and extended his conquests on the continent of Africa. But perceiving that the Moors and Arabs submitted to his government with the utmost reluctance, and being afraid that his continual depredations would one day draw upon him the arms of the Christians, he put his dominions under the protection of the grand seignior, and received from him a body of Turkish soldiers, sufficient for his security against his domestic as well as foreign enemies. At last, the infamy of his exploits daily increasing, Solyman offered him the command of the Turkish fleet, and Hayradin on the other hand, justly dreading the consequences of the tyranny of his officers over the Algerines, sought the protection of the grand seignior. This was readily granted, and himself appointed bashaw or viceroy of Algiers; by which means he received such considerable reinforce-

ments, that the unhappy Algerines durst not make the least complaint; and such numbers of Turks resorted to him, that he was not only capable of keeping the Moors and Arabs in subjection at home, but of annoying the Christians at sea.

Hayradin set about building a strong mole for the safety of his ships. In this he employed thirty thousand Christian slaves, whom he obliged to work without intermission, for three years, in which time the work was completed. Hayradin soon became dreaded not only by the Arabs and Moors, but also by the maritime Christian powers, especially the Spaniards. The viceroy failed not to acquaint the grand seignor with his success, and obtained from him a fresh supply of money, by which he was enabled to build strong forts, and to erect batteries on all places that might favour the landing of an enemy. All these have since received greater improvements from time to time, as often as there was occasion for them.

In the mean time the sultan, either out of a sense of the great services of Hayra-

din, or perhaps out of jealousy lest he should make himself independent, raised him to the dignity of bashaw of the empire, and appointed Hassan Aga, a Sardinian renegado to succeed him as bashaw of Algiers. Hassan had no sooner taken possession of his new government, than he began to pursue his ravages on the Spanish coast with greater fury than ever; extending them to the ecclesiastical state, and other parts of Italy. Pope Paul III. alarmed at this proceeding, exhorted the emperor Charles V. to send a powerful fleet to suppress those frequent piracies, and that nothing might be wanting to render the enterprise successful, a bull was published by his holiness, wherein a plenary absolution of sins, and the crown of martyrdom, was promised to all those who either fell in battle or were made slaves. The emperor, on his part, needed no encitement, and therefore set sail at the head of a powerful fleet, consisting of a hundred and twenty ships and twenty gallies, having on board thirty thousand troops, with an immense quantity of arms and ammunition. In this expedi-



tion, many young nobility and gentlemen attended as volunteers, and among these many knights of Malta, so remarkable for their valour against the enemies of Christianity. Even the ladies of birth and character attended Charles, and the wives and daughters of the officers and soldiers followed him with a design to settle in Barbary, after the conquest was finished.

By this prodigious armament, the Algerines were thrown into the utmost consternation. The city was surrounded only by a wall with scarcely any outworks. The garrison consisted of eight hundred Turks, and six thousand Moors, without fire arms, and poorly disciplined and accoutred; the rest of their forces being dispersed in the other provinces of the kingdom, to levy the usual tribute on the Arabs and Moors. The Spaniards landed without opposition, and immediately built a fort, under the cannon of which they encamped, and diverted the course of a spring which supplied the city with water. Being now reduced to the utmost distress, Hassan received a sum-

mons to surrender at discretion, on pain of being put to the sword with all his garrison. The herald was ordered to extol the vast power of the emperor both by sea and land, and to exhort him to return to the Christian religion. But to this Hassan only replied, that he must be a madman who would pretend to advise an enemy, and that the person advised would act still more madly who would take counsel of such an adviser. He was however, on the point of surrendering the city, when intelligence was brought him that the forces belonging to the western government were in full march towards the place; upon which it was resolved to defend it to the utmost. Charles, in the mean time, resolving upon a general assault, kept up a constant firing on the town; which from the weak defence made by the garrison, he looked upon as already in his hands. But while the divan was deliberating on the most proper means of obtaining an honourable capitulation, a mad prophet, attended by a multitude of people, entered the assembly, and foretold the destruction of the Spaniards be-

fore the end of the moon, exhorting the inhabitants to hold out till that time. This prediction was soon accomplished in a very surprising and unexpected manner; for on the 28th of October 1541, a dreadful storm of wind, rain, and hail, arose from the north, accompanied with violent shocks of earthquakes, and a dismal and universal darkness both by sea, and land; so that the sun, moon, and elements, seemed to combine together for the destruction of the Spaniards. In that one night, some say in less than half an hour, eighty-six ships and fifteen gallies were destroyed, with all their crews, and military stores; by which the army on shore was deprived of all means of sustenance. Their camp also, which spread itself along the plain under their fort, was laid quite under the water by the torrents, which descended from the neighbouring hills. Many of the troops, by trying to remove into some better situation, were cut to pieces by the Moors and Arabs; while several gallies, and other vessels, endeavouring to gain some neighbouring creeks along the coast, were immediately



plundered, and their crews massacred by the inhabitants.

Next morning Charles beheld the sea covered with the fragments of ships, and the bodies of men, horses, and other creatures, swimming on the waves; at which he was so disheartened, that abandoning his tents, artillery, and all his heavy baggage to the enemy, he marched at the head of his army, in no small disorder, towards Cape Mallabux, in order to re-embark in those vessels, which had out-weathered the storm. But Hassan who had watched his motions, allowed him just time to get to the shore, when he sallied out and attacked the Spaniards in the midst of their hurry to get into their ships. He killed great numbers, and brought away a still greater number of captives; after which he returned in triumph to Algiers.

Soon after this, the prophet Yusef, who had foretold the destruction of the Spaniards, was declared the deliverer of his country, and had a considerable gratuity decreed him, with the liberty of exercising his prophetic function unmolested.

It was not long, however, before the Marabouts, and some interpreters of the law, made a strong opposition against him, remonstrating to the Bashaw, how ridiculous and scandalous it was to their nation, to ascribe its deliverance to a poor fortune-teller, which had been obtained by the fervent prayers of an eminent saint of his own profession. But though the bashaw and his divan seemed out of policy, to give into this last notion, yet the impression, which the prediction of Yusef and its accomplishment had made upon the minds of the common people, proved too strong to be eradicated; and the spirit of divination and conjuring has since got into such credit among them, that not only their great statesmen, but their priests, Marabouts, and santoons, have applied themselves to that study, and dignified it with the name of Mahomet's Revelations.

The Spaniards had scarce reached their ships, when they were attacked by a fresh storm, in which several more of them perished. A vessel in particular, containing seven hundred soldiers, be-

sides sailors, sunk in the sight of Charles, without the possibility of saving a single man. At length with much labour, they reached the port of Bojeyah. They staid no longer here than till the sixteenth of November, when they set sail for Carthage, and reached it on the twenty-fifth of the same month. In this unfortunate expedition upwards of one hundred and twenty ships and gallies were lost, with about three hundred colonels and other officers, and eight thousand soldiers and marines, besides those destroyed by the enemy on their re-embarkation, or drowned in the last storm. The number of prisoners were so great, that the Algerines sold some of them, by way of contempt, for an onion per head.

From this time the Spaniards were never able to annoy the Algerines, in any considerable degree. In 1555, they lost the city of Bojeyah, which was taken by Saleb Bais, successor to Hassan. This commander, in 1556, set out upon a new expedition, but he was scarcely got twelve leagues from Algiers, when



the plague, which at that time raged violently in the city, luckily carried him off in twenty-four hours.

The Algerines were now become formidable to the European powers. The Spaniards, who were most in danger, solicited the assistance of England, the Pope, and the other states. The French, however, were the first who dared to shew their resentment at the perfidious behaviour of these miscreants; and in 1617, M. Caulieu was sent against them with a fleet of fifty men of war. He defeated their fleet and took two of their vessels. Their admiral sunk his own ship and crew rather than fall into the hands of the enemy.

In 1620, a squadron of English men of war was sent against Algiers, but did nothing. The Algerines becoming more insolent, openly defied all the European powers. In 1637, the Algerines infested the British channel; and made such a vast number of captures, as to have at one time, between four and five thousand subjects of England, prisoners.

The Algerines prosecuted their pira-

cies with impunity, to the terror and disgrace of Christendom, till the year 1652; when a French fleet being driven to Algiers, the admiral demanded a release of all the captives of his nation. This being refused, the Frenchmen, without ceremony, carried off the Turkish viceroy and the judge, who were just arrived from the Porte. The Algerines by way of reprisal, surprised the Baston of France already spoken of, and took prisoners to the number of six hundred. Upon this, the admiral sent them word, that he would pay them another visit, next year, with his whole fleet.

The Algerines fitted out a fleet of sixteen gallies under the command of Hala Pacha; they made a descent on Pagala, where they took many prisoners, ravaging the whole territory of Necotta. They carried off a vast number of captives. Thence steering towards Dalmatia, they scoured the Adriatic, and loaded themselves with immense plunder.

In the year 1635, four brothers of a family in France, entered into an undertaking so desperate, that perhaps the an-

nals of knight errantly can scarcely furnish its equal. This was no less than to retort the piracies of the Algerines, upon themselves; and as they indiscriminately took the ships of all nations, so were these heroes indiscriminately to take the ships belonging to Algiers; and this with a small frigate of ten guns! An hundred volunteers embarked; a Maltese commission was obtained, with an able master and thirty mariners. On their first setting out, they took, on the Spanish coast, a ship laden with wine. Three days after, they engaged two large Algerine corsairs, one of twenty and the other of twenty-four guns. The French made so desperate a resistance, that the pirates were not able to take them, till five other corsairs came up. The French vessel, being almost torn to pieces, was then boarded and taken. In 1642, the brothers redeemed themselves, at the price of six thousand dollars.

The Venetians, alarmed at the ravages of the Algerines equipped a fleet of twenty-eight sail, under the command of admiral Capello, with express orders to burn,



sink, or take, all the Barbary corsairs which he met with, either on the open seas, or even in the Ottoman harbours, agreeable to a late treaty of peace with the Porte. On the other hand, the captain bashaw, who had been sent out with a Turkish fleet to chase the Florentine and Maltese cruisers from the Archipelago, learning that the Algerine squadron was so near, sent express orders to the admiral to come to his assistance. Pinchinin readily agreed; but he was overtaken by Capello, from whom he retired to Valona, a sea-port belonging to the grand seignior, whither the Venetian admiral pursued him; but the Turkish governor refusing to turn out the pirates, according to the articles of peace between the Ottoman court and Venice, Capello was obliged to content himself with watching them for some time. Pinchinin soon ventured out, an engagement immediately ensued, and the Algerines were defeated. Five of their vessels were disabled; one thousand five hundred men, Turks, and Christian slaves, were killed; besides one thousand six hundred

galley-slaves, who regained their liberty. Pinchinin, after this defeat, returned to Valona, where he was again watched by Capello, but the latter had not lain long at his old anchorage, before he received a letter from the senate, desiring him to make no farther attempt upon the pirates at that time, for fear of a rupture with the Porte. Capello was forced to submit; but resolving to take such a leave of the Algerines as he thought they deserved, observed how they had reared their tents, and drawn their booty and equipage along the shore. He then kept firing among their tents, while some well-manned galliots and brigantines were despatched to attack their shipping. Sixteen gallies, with all their cannon, and stores, were towed out. In this last engagement, a ball from one of the Venetian gallies, struck a Turkish mosque, and hence the whole action was considered as an insult to the grand seignior. To conceal this, Capello was ordered to sink all the Algerine ships that he had taken, except the Admiral; which was to be conducted to Venice, and laid up as a trophy. Capello

received a severe reprimand, and the Venetians were obliged to buy, with five hundred thousand ducats, a peace from the porte.

In the mean time, the news of this defeat and loss filled Algiers with rage and confusion. The city was on the point of an insurrection, when the bashaw published a proclamation, forbidding, not only complaints and outcries, under the severest penalties, but all persons whatever to take their thumbs from within their girdles, while they were deliberating on this subject. They applied to the porte for an order, that the Venetians settled in the Levant, should make up their loss. But with this the grand seignior refused to comply, and left them to repair their losses and to build new ships in the best manner that they could. It was not long, however, before they had the satisfaction of seeing one of their captains land, with a fresh supply of six hundred slaves, whom he had brought from the coast of Iceland, whither he had been directed by a miscreant native taken on board a Danish ship.



*Pinchinin—His engagement with a Dutch ship—Bombardment and destruction of Algiers by the French—Defeat of the Spaniards.*

THE pirates did not long continue in their weak and defenceless state; being able, at the end of two years, to appear at sea with a fleet of sixty-five sail. The admiral Pinchinin equipped four galliots at his own expense; with which, in conjunction with the Chiayah or secretary of the bashaw of Tripoli, he made a second excursion. This small squadron, consisting of five gallies and two brigantines, fell in with an English ship of forty guns; which, however Pinchinin's captains refused to engage, but being afterwards reproached by him for their cowardice, they swore to attack the next Christian ship that came in their way. This happened to be a Dutch merchantman, of twenty-eight guns and forty men, deeply laden, and disabled by a calm from using her sails. Pinchinin immediately summoned her to surrender; but re-

ceiving an ironical answer, drew up his squadron in the form of a half moon, that they might pour their shot all at once into their adversary. This, however, the Dutchman avoided, by means of a breeze of wind which fortunately sprung up and enabled him to turn his ship; by which the gallies ran foul of each other. Upon this Pinchinin ran his own galley along side the merchantman, the upper deck of which seventy Algerines immediately took possession of, some of them cutting the rigging, others plying the hatches with hand-grenadoes; but the Dutch having secured themselves in their close quarters, began to fire at the Algerines on board, from two pieces of cannon loaded with small shot; by which they were all soon killed or forced to submit. Pinchinin in the mean time made several unsuccessful attempts to relieve his men, as well as to surround the Dutch with his other gallies; but their ship lay so deep in the water, that every shot did terrible execution among the pirates; so that they were obliged to remove farther off. At last the Dutch cap-

tain, having ordered his guns to be loaded with cartouches, gave them a parting volley, which killed, as it is said, two hundred of them, and sent the rest back to Algiers in a dismal condition.

But though Pinchinin thus returned in disgrace, the rest of the fleet quickly came back with vast numbers of slaves, and an immense quantity of rich spoils; insomuch that the English, French, and Dutch, were obliged to cringe to the Algerines, who sometimes condescended to be at peace with them, but swore eternal war against Spain, Portugal, and Italy, whom they considered as the greatest enemies to the Mahometan name. At last, Lewis the fourteenth, provoked by the grievous outrages committed by the Algerines on the coast of Provence and Languedoc, ordered in 1681, a considerable fleet to be fitted out against them, under the Marquis du Quesne, vice admiral of France. His first expedition was against a number of Tripolitan corsairs; who had the good fortune to outrow him, and shelter themselves in the island of Scio belonging to the Turks. This did not



prevent him from pursuing them thither, and making such a terrible fire upon them as destroyed fourteen of their vessels, besides battering the walls of the castle.

This severity seemed only to be designed as a check to the piracies of the Algerines; but, finding that they still continued their outrages on the French coast, Du Quesne sailed in August 1682 to Algiers, cannonading and bombarding it so furiously, that in a very short time, the whole town was in flames. The great mosque was battered down, and most of the houses laid in ruins, so that the inhabitants were on the point of abandoning the place; when, on a sudden, the wind turned about, and obliged Du Quesne to return to Toulon. The Algerines immediately made reprisals, by sending a number of gallies and galliots to the coast of Provence, where they committed the most dreadful ravages, and brought away a vast number of captives; upon which a new armament was ordered to be got ready at Toulon and Marseilles, against them the next year; and the Algerines having received early notice, put them-

selves into as good a state of defence as the time would allow.

In May 1683, Du Quesne with his squadron, cast anchor before Algiers; where, being joined by the Marquis d'Affranville, at the head of five strong vessels, it was resolved to bombard the town the next day, when accordingly one hundred bombs were thrown into it which did terrible execution, while the besieged made some hundred discharges of their cannon against the assailants, without doing any considerable damage. The following night, bombs were again thrown into the city in such numbers, that the dey's palace and other great edifices were almost destroyed; some of the batteries were dismantled, and several vessels sunk in the port. The dey, and Turkish bashaw, as well as the whole soldiery, alarmed at this dreadful havoc, immediately sued for peace. As a preliminary, the French insisted on the surrender of all Christian captives who had been taken fighting under their flag, which being granted, one hundred and forty-two persons were directly delivered up, with

a promise of sending on board the remainder, as soon as they could be got from the different parts of the country. Accordingly Du Quesne sent his commissary general and one of his engineers into the town; but with express orders to insist upon the delivery of all the French captives without exception, together with the effects that had been taken from the French; and that Mezomorto their then admiral, and Hali Rais one of their captains, should be given as hostages.

This last demand having embarrassed the dey, he assembled the divan, and acquainted them with it. Upon this, Mezomorto fell into a violent passion, and told the assembly, that the cowardice of those who sat at the helm had occasioned the ruin of Algiers; but, that for his part, he would never consent to deliver up any thing that was taken from the French. He immediately acquainted the soldiery with what had passed; which so exasperated them, that they murdered the dey that very night, and on the morrow chose Mezomorto in his place. This was no sooner done, than he cancelled all the



articles of peace which had been made, and hostilities were renewed with greater fury than ever.

The French admiral now kept pouring in such volleys of bombs, that in less than three days, the greatest part of the city was reduced to ashes; and the fire burned with such fury, that the sea was enlightened far more than two leagues round. Mezomorto, unmoved by all these disasters, and the vast numbers of the slain, whose blood ran in rivulets along the streets; or rather, grown furious and desperate, sought only how to wreak his revenge on the enemy; and not content with causing all the French in the city to be cruelly murdered, he ordered their consul to be tied hand and foot, and fastened alive to the mouth of a mortar, from which he was shot away against their navy. By this piece of inhumanity, Du Quesne was so exasperated, that he did not leave Algiers till he had utterly destroyed all their fortifications, shipping, almost all the lower part, and above two-thirds of the upper

part of the city, which became little more than a heap of ruins.

The Algerines were now thoroughly convinced that they were not invincible; and, therefore, immediately sent an embassy into France, begging in the most abject terms for peace; which Lewis very soon granted, to their inexpressible joy. They now began to pay some regard to other nations, and to be somewhat cautious how they wantonly provoked their displeasure. The first bombardment by the French had so far humbled the Algerines, that they condescended to enter into a treaty with England; which was in 1686 renewed upon terms very advantageous to the latter. It is not to be supposed, however, that the natural perfidy of the Algerines would disappear on a sudden. Notwithstanding this treaty, therefore, they lost no opportunity of making prizes of English ships, when they could conveniently seize them. Upon some infringement of this kind, captain Beach, in 1695, drove ashore and burned seven of their frigates, which produced a renewal of the

treaty five years after; but it was not until the taking of Gibraltar and Port Mahon, that Britain could have a sufficient check upon them to enforce the observation of treaties; and these have since proved such restraints upon Algiers, that they still continue to pay a greater deference to the English than to any other European power.

In 1708, Oran, as has been already related, was taken by the Algerines from the Spaniards, and recovered by the latter in 1732. The Turkish bashaw was in 1710, finally expelled.

Since the last siege of Oran, the most remarkable event in the annals of Barbary is the attack of Algiers, by the Spaniards in the year 1775. With a concise account of that expedition, we shall close this chapter of blood.

On the 23d of June 1775, a fleet of six ships of the line, twelve frigates, and thirty-three other armed vessels set sail from Carthagera, in Spain, to attack Algiers. There was on board a body of troops amounting to twenty-four thousand four hundred and forty-seven men



including infantry, cavalry, marines, and six hundred deserters destined to serve as workmen. They were commanded by the count O'Reilly, a personal favourite of the late king of Spain. They had likewise for the land service, an hundred and seventy-six pieces of artillery, mortars, and howitzers, with a suitable quantity of military stores. On the 30th of June, and first of July, they anchored in the bay of Algiers. They observed a large encampment, placed behind a battery, east of the Xarach, which runs on the eastward of the city. On the 2d of July, a council was held; and orders were given that the troops should hold themselves in readiness to disembark next morning, by day-break. But as the succeeding night was windy, and a swell had set in from the shore, these orders were countermanded. From this day to the 6th, there were frequent councils, violent debates, and nothing done. A quarrel broke out between O'Reilly and the Marquis de Romana, a Spanish major general, who was killed in the subsequent action. On the 6th, the principal offi-

cers were again assembled, to receive their ultimate instructions. The commander in chief warned the army, that it was the custom of the Moors, pretend a most violent attack, and on the smallest resistance, to fly with precipitation, that they might draw the enemy into an ambuscade. He cautioned the troops not to break their ranks, as nothing but the force of discipline could secure them against so active an enemy. He pointed out the very error which they soon after committed, and the snare into which they were betrayed. On landing, the army was directed to gain some heights, which were supposed requisite to ensure success against Algiers. In the afternoon of the 6th, some ships of war were ordered to fire against three batteries to the eastward of that city. This commission was executed with so much laudable attention to the personal safety of the assailants, if such we may term them, that their shot did not reach the shore, those of one seventy-four gun ship excepted. At sun-set this formidable attack ceased.

On the 7th at day break, between eight and nine thousand men were put on board the boats for landing. They advanced, under the protection of some larger vessels very near the coast. Not a Moor appeared to oppose them; and at seven o'clock in the morning, they returned on board the transports. Not a shot was fired on either side during the whole day, although they were well prepared for their enemy.

On the 8th, at day-break, the ships being stationed to batter the different forts to the right and left of the place of disembarkation, the troops, to the number of about eight thousand, were put on board the boats; which formed in six columns. The place of landing was a league and an half to the eastward of the city of Algiers. Eighty thousand Moors, of whom two-thirds were cavalry, came in sight, but did not attempt to oppose the landing of the Spanish forces. It is said, that the whole number of Africans collected on this occasion, was not less than one hundred and fifty thousand. The troops advanced into a close coun-



try, which the Algerines had occupied in small parties. The grenadiers and light infantry of the Spaniards were repulsed, and the whole body fell into confusion. In a very short time they fled, leaving behind them a great number of killed and wounded. The latter, a few excepted, were, in spite of their intreaties, left to the mercy of the conquerors. Part of a second embarkation of troops added to the general confusion. A third body had cast up an intrenchment on the shore, for the protection of the army. The Africans attacked it, but were driven back with great slaughter on both sides. The Spaniards, in their gazette, acknowledged the loss of five hundred and twenty-one men killed, and two thousand two hundred and seventy-nine wounded. It is said, that the Algerines had between five and six thousand men slain on the spot. The wounded Spaniards who were left on the field of battle, were every one murdered by the enemy. The government of Algiers had offered ten sequins for the head of each Spaniard. Fifteen pieces of cannon, and three howitzers

were left behind by these unfortunate invaders. The real amount of their loss can hardly have been less than three thousand lives, and was perhaps considerably greater. In the gazette of a court, we seldom expect an honest reckoning of this kind. If the writer of that of Madrid intended us to believe that two thousand two hundred and seventy-nine of the wounded were brought off, the officer from whose journal this account is extracted, says that a much greater number were left behind, than were saved, which makes the story worse and worse. On details of this kind, we cannot dwell with pleasure. One circumstance is evident, that the Spanish commanders did not understand their business.

*State of America as to Algiers—Conduct of  
Britain, &c.*

IN the last chapter, we have seen the Algerines successively set at defiance, several of the most formidable nations of Europe. When the United States of America had obtained their infant independence, it was naturally to be expected, that they also should, in some degree, suffer by the ravages of the corsairs. Various circumstances pointed them out as eligible objects of piratical rapine. They possessed an extensive trade with Europe, which in the first place presented a splendid temptation to plunder. There was, on the part of the Algerines, a second and irresistible motive to hostilities. America did not support, at her national expense, any maritime force whatever; and thirdly, had she even established an armed navy, this country lies at the distance of more than three thousand miles, from the common range of the privateers of Barbary. Hence, to reduce them to submission, must always require a proportion of trouble and ex-



pense greatly superior to the substantial magnitude of the object of attack; and this remoteness of our situation might be considered as an additional inducement to the regency of Algiers for interrupting our navigation. Of the number and strength of the corsairs, it is impossible to give an accurate statement. Their actual force, however, compared with that which the United States could easily fit out, is but trifling. To bring the whole ships of war, at once, to a regular engagement, never can be practicable, but should it happen, it may without presumption be supposed, that fifteen or twenty American forty gun frigates would send their navy to the bottom. When we reflect on the numerous and peculiar incitements which these Africans had, to commence depredations on the commerce of the United States, instead of being surprised at our having suffered so much, it rather becomes an object of wonder that we have suffered so little. Since the independence of North America, the Algerines have been constantly at war with the Dutch or the Portuguese, or

both at once ; and as either of these nations is greatly superior, in regular strength at sea, to the corsairs, they have hitherto for the security of their own commerce, watched the entrance of the Mediterranean so carefully, that the corsairs have been seldom able to get out of it. That they sometimes did so is unfortunately certain, but, in general, they were shut up in the Mediterranean as in a prison, without a possibility of extending their depredations on the Atlantic ocean. Into the former, American vessels but sometimes ventured, and when they did so, they derived security from forged or purchased Mediterranean passes. A British ship has for her protection a pass, which is written on a large sheet of parchment, and has, by way of ornament, some figures or dashes drawn with a pen, or engraven on the margin. The Algerines cannot read English, and it would most likely cost the captain of a corsair his head, were he to carry a British vessel by mistake as a prize into the harbour of Algiers. They have adopted a sagacious contrivance to discover whether such

passes are genuine. They keep a stick marked with notches corresponding to the shape of those figures, that are uniformly delineated on the margin of the parchment. When the pass is produced, their measure is applied. In this way, it cannot be difficult for the most bungling artist, who has an original pass before him, to deceive them, and by this means, it is said, upon reputable authority, that many vessels have been preserved. Besides, even in the Mediterranean itself, the progress of the Algerines have been considerably cramped by the Portuguese and Dutch ships of war, and both these nations, as well as the Spaniards, from a regard to their own interest, as well as from the common principles of justice and humanity, have been forward to extend their protection to the American flag. The Algerines are more formidable at sea than any other power along the coasts of Barbary. Their navy, however, seldom exceeds twenty ships, only one of which belongs to the government and is assigned to the admiral; this is styled the dylik, or royal ship, and has



her particular store-houses; all the rest belong to private persons, and have likewise their store-houses well provided, the captains never failing to strip their prizes of all the conveniencies they find in them.

The captains of these ships have commonly a share in those they command, if they are not the sole owners, and accordingly may fit them out when they will, and cruise where they please; but are obliged, when required, to attend the service of the state in transporting men or provisions, or in sailing on any particular cruise. The captain must give an account of his success to the government, which claims an eighth part of all the prizes, slaves, and cargo; the rest being divided among the proprietors and ship's company.

The naval force of Algiers has been said to have been for a considerable number of years on the decline. In the year 1732, they had only six capital ships, from thirty-six to fifty guns, beside brigantines and row boats; and at the same time, had

not half that number of brave and experienced captains.

Though piracy seems to suit best with the temper of the Algerines, they suffer free Christians, Jews, either natives or foreigners, Arabians, and Moors, to exercise a free commerce both by sea and land, and to carry on trades and manufactures in silk, cotton, wool, leather, and other commodities, which are mostly conducted by Spaniards settled in Algiers, especially about the metropolis. Carpets are another manufacture of this country, though they are greatly inferior to those of Turkey for beauty and firmness; but being both cheaper and softer, are preferred by the people to lie upon. There are likewise at Algiers looms for velvet, taffaties, and other wrought silks, and a coarse sort of linen is made in most parts of the kingdom, of which Susa produces the finest. These manufactures are chiefly consumed at home, some of them, especially those of silk and linen, being so inconsiderable, that they are obliged to supply the want of a sufficient quantity by importing them from Europe and the

Levant. The people send few of their commodities to foreign markets, their oil, wax, corn, and pulse being barely sufficient to supply the country, though, before the city of Oran became subject to Spain, the merchants have been known to ship off from the various parts of Barbary, seven or eight thousand tons of corn in one year. The consumption of oil, which is here very plentiful, is also so considerable in this country, that it is seldom permitted to be shipped off for Europe: so that their exports chiefly consist in ostriches feathers, wax, hides, wool, copper, rugs, silk, sashes, embroidered handkerchiefs, Christian slaves, and dates.

The goods chiefly imported consist in gold and silver stuffs, damasks, linen and woolen cloths and stuffs, cotton, raw and spun, tin, iron, plated brass, lead, quicksilver, cordage, silk-cloth, bullets, cochineal, tartar, clum, rice, sugar, honey, wax, spices, aloes, opium, annise and cumminseed, soap, copperas, asenic, sarsaparilla, aspic, &c.



A NARRATIVE  
OF THE  
*Captivity and Sufferings*  
OF  
MARIA MARTIN,  
WHO WAS SIX YEARS A SLAVE IN  
ALGIERS:

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I AM a native of England, and was born in the year 1779, of respectable and wealthy parents. In the year 1797 I was married to captain Henry Martin, who was commander of one of the East India Company's ships. Being ever desirous of visiting some distant part of the world, I solicited and obtained the consent of my husband to accompany him a voyage to Minorca. Accordingly, on the twentieth of June 1800, we set sail in the ship Unicorn, on board of which there were one hundred souls, twelve of whom were passengers. We enjoyed for several weeks a pleasant wind, and nothing occurred to obstruct our passage until the

27th July, when at the very moment that the soft breeze fanned every soul to sleep, when every fear of danger was banished, all care forgotten, and the wearied lulled in the arms of Morpheus to sweet repose, then, in an instant, we were all roused, by the striking of the ship upon a rock! Our amazement and horror cannot be described—in order to do it, the reader must realize my feelings at that moment. We were soon overwhelmed by the tempest of the sea. The crew were in the utmost confusion—some swearing, and others praying.

At day light next morning, we found ourselves in a deplorable situation, the ship on her beam ends, with four feet of water in her hold, and a heavy sea continually breaking over us. In order to lighten the vessel, the foremast was cut away, and the guns thrown overboard, this plan had its desired effect, for in a few minutes we found ourselves afloat in deep water, and saw astern of us, the rock that had caused us so much trouble and anxiety of mind. All hands being immediately set to work in repairing and

clearing the ship of water, we had the pleasure of seeing ourselves the proceeding day in a situation to proceed on our voyage.

Nothing from this moment transpired, worthy of record, until the 14th of August, when we met with a far more fatal disaster; about sunset, we were alarmed at the sight of a vessel we discovered, which Capt. Martin imagined to be a French frigate, and to avoid her, he altered the ship's course; the wind at this moment began to blow unusually strong, and with the night increased to a hurricane. The night was extremely dark, and the sea running high and breaking over us, rendered it impossible to keep a light in the binnacle—we were therefore obliged to lash the helm and trust to the mercy of the waves. At day light the storm began in some measure to abate—at 9 A. M. it entirely subsided.

At 2 P. M. as we were taking some refreshment in the cabin, the boatswain came and told my husband that the colour of the water had changed; upon which he reprimanded him, and told him



that he had lost his senses, for it was impossible to be near any shore. When the sea changes its colour, it is an evident token that land is not far off. We continued our course under a foresail; but our terror and surprise was not to be expressed, when in the morning watch, my husband being upon deck, discovered land right a-head, he came down immediately into the cabin, and with tears in his eyes, desired I would arise. By his countenance I judged that something extraordinary was the matter; I instantly arose and went upon deck, and plainly saw the land but a short distance a-head! The land had the appearance of sandbanks, and the ship's crew did all they could to weather them, but the ship having a round head, she would not obey the helm, therefore it was agreed to make in for the land, hoping, as it had the appearance of a bold shore, that we might, through Providence, land safe. It however proving ebb tide, the ship struck upon one of the banks, but by lightening the ship, and cutting away her masts by the board, got clear of that; but keeping

still in for the shore, we soon after struck upon another sand bank, but not very violently, so we threw out our ship's anchors in hopes we might ride out the tide; but the wind increasing, we dragged them, and were violently thrown upon another sand bank, where the ship stuck, and the waves dashed over us. There were several children on board, the dismal cries of whom at this awful moment, could not fail to pierce the hardest heart. Capt. Martin ordered the boat out, to see if we could gain the shore that way, a number jumped into her, but ere they could leave the ship, she was staved to pieces.

There were on board two blacks, that were excellent divers, (for the surge was so violent no one could stem the billows but by diving) who offered to get with a rope on shore, and fasten it from the ship to the rocks. The negroes accordingly plunged into the sea, and in a few moments we had the satisfaction to see them land and make fast the rope, by the assistance of which they again returned to the ship. My husband, the mate and

myself ventured into the water first, upon the awning of the ship, and got safe on shore. The captain's clerk, the boatswain, and two sailors next came on shore, but no sooner were they landed, than the rope broke, and as the two negroes had left us, all hopes of saving any more from the ship was at an end; alas! my ears are even pierced at this moment with their cries, which was more terrible to me than the storm.

Soon after our arrival on shore my husband, the mate and boatswain, went in search of inhabitants, but in a few hours returned, and informed me that they could not discover any; our grief was now renewed, for we were apparently in as much danger of starving now, as we had been of drowning a few hours before.

While we were lamenting our condition we heard somebody hollow, up in the woods, which revived our drooping senses; but running to see who it was, we, much to our grief, found it to be one of the sailors that escaped, who was hollowing to his companion.



When we were together, my husband proposed that we should walk to the southward, to see if it were possible to find any inhabitants; but in less than an hour, our journey was obstructed by an impenetrable wood, and we were compelled to return. We then steered our course northward, but were interrupted by large swamps. Thus marooned as we were, we went back again and could perceive the poor wretches in the vessel lifting up their hands to us for succour. Capt. Martin made signs to them to let them know that our condition was as bad as theirs. It growing near night, some of the poor creatures ventured into the water, but were soon drowned. In short, every object we beheld increased our horror. None of us had eat or drank for two days. My poor husband though quite cast down himself, endeavoured to cheer his fellow-sufferers; and that we might be sheltered from the inclemency of the night (which to add to our wretched condition, proved a rainy one) the men by joint consent and labour while the day lasted, collected a great number

of Palmetoe leaves, and with the fragments of trees built a hut, and sheltered it from the weather as well as they could. It was indeed a melancholy reflection to think of our condition, nothing to lie upon but the bare wet ground, and our clothes that covered us with those upon our backs, dropping with rain and salt-water; no food, nor hopes of getting any, and almost expiring with thirst. In the miserable hut we spent a wretched night; in the morning, by my request, we addressed ourselves to the all-seeing Power for succour. After our extempore orisons were over, we rose up and resolved to go into the woods, to gather if possible, something to kill our hunger. We did not travel far before the mate, who was a little way a-head, came running toward us, and told us that he had discovered a few rods distant, a number of men of a very tawny complexion, armed with long spears; we did not hesitate a moment to meet them whether friends or foes, for we felt ourselves unable any longer to live without food. As soon as they discovered us, they advanced towards us in

full speed; when within hail, they accosted us in a language which we did not understand; my husband addressed them in English and then in French, but they did not appear to understand what he said, the mate then addressed them in Spanish, but with no better success—one of the sailors who had been a prisoner among the Moors, next addressed them in the Moresco language, and by one or two of them appeared to be understood, who, in reply, declared us “their prisoners.”—By the request of my husband, the sailor, who had now become our interpreter, enquired the name of the country in which we were—the reply was, “you are in Barbary, 30 miles from Tennis, and 90 from the city of Algiers.”

We were at this instant surrounded by the barbarians, who brandishing their spears, commanded us to follow them. The sailor told them that we were British subjects, with whom the Bey of Algiers was at peace; to this, however, they paid little or no attention, but compelled us to accompany them. About sun-set, we arrived at Mostago, a village 27 miles



from Tennis, where we tarried that night and the next morning proceeded for Oran. The news of our arrival was soon made known, and the inhabitants collected in great numbers to view us.—By our interpreter we discovered that those by whom we were captured, were representing us as natives of Portugal, that we were part of the crew of a privateer of that nation, which had been shipwrecked on their coast. As the Portuguese were then at war with no nation but the Algerines, the wicked lie of these unprincipled barbarians had its desired effect, and so enraged the multitude, that they could hardly be restrained from laying violent hands on us.

It appeared to be the policy of our captors to represent us as an enemy, as they well knew that we should be disposed of as such, and that they, agreeable to a law of their country, would be entitled to one half of the purchase money—but, to the contrary. had it been known that we were British subjects, the English consul at Algiers would have demanded us as such.

My husband's greatest concern was, that we should be disposed of to different persons, and separated, never perhaps to see each other again,—and too soon were his expectations verified, for the day after our arrival, we were drove up like so many cattle which are to be exposed for sale, to the public market, where were gathered a great number of bidders; among them I recognized many of my own sex, which gave me fresh hopes of protection, but, alas! this fond hope was of but short duration, for so far from exhibiting any pity for me, they seemed rather to exult in my miseries! One of the ruffians who claimed me as their property, conducted me to the Cadi, or principal governor of the place, who was a little, ugly, old looking man, besmeared with dirt, barefoot and bare legged, to him I was recommended as a valuable in-door slave; he was very critical in the examination of my person; my limbs, teeth, eyes, &c. were very closely inspected. After undergoing a thorough examination by more than one hundred different persons, I was struck off to a Turk; I was then led out

of the market-place, and committed to the care of his son, who was seated on a log a few rods therefrom, awaiting the departure of his father.

Here for the first time I had a melancholy view of my unhappy fellow slaves, whose countenances, as they stole a pitying glance toward me, bespoke more than the tongue can express! they were employed in their daily occupation, which was to load large carts with rocks and huge stones blown from the ledges near the shore, and to convey them to a valley about one mile distant; those employed to load the carts, had large collars about their necks, made much after the form of those worn by the West-India slaves; those allotted to draw the carts, were chained thereto. To witness the distress, and to hear the despairing groans of those poor creatures, could not fail to draw a tear from the eye of any one but a merciless barbarian! Under the heavy weight of the lash, they were compelled to perform the severest tasks; half naked, their scorched and lacerated bodies exhibited a frightful proof of the brutality



exercised toward them by those merciless barbarians.

A very great portion of the inhabitants of Tenis are Moors, a description of the manners and customs of which may be entertaining to my readers. They are of a tawny complexion, of a lazy, idle disposition, and addicted to all the vices of mankind; mistrustful to the last degree, false, jealous, and the very picture of ignorance. They stile themselves musselmen, or true believers; yet their word is not to be relied on. They abominate the christians, for the very word in their language signifies dog; and are continually seeking means to destroy them. Mahomet has taught them in his Alcoran, that all who die fighting against christians, immediately enter into paradise, in triumph; nay, even their houses, if they die in battle are immediately translated into heaven.

Though poligamy is allowed, yet they must marry but four wives, and must settle a dowry upon them; they are strictly forbidden marrying or having any intercourse with a christian woman; those

who break this law are immediately punished with death.

At their burials, they hire professed mourners to grieve and cry at the graves of relations, and howl over them, asking them why they would die when they were provided with every thing that is necessary in this world. Their time is spent in eating, drinking, sleeping, dallying with their horses, &c.

They have usually a string of beads in their hands, like the Roman Catholicks, and to every bead they have a short prayer, which as they repeat, they drop through their fingers. The prayer consists only in the different attributes of God, as—God is great, God is good, God is infinite, God is merciful.

The Cadi or (Governor) of 'Tenis, only differs from his subjects in a larger propensity to their ill qualities, with the addition of a degree of cruelty and avarice.

I was one day a spectator to his wanton cruelty; having been sent on some errand by my Turkish master, I perceived him giving directions to some of his workmen; there were several carts drove by his

slaves, with materials for his house, and as they passed him he bastinadoed some for going too fast, while others, thinking to mend that fault, were drubbed by him for going too slow; one poor creature, trembling for fear what would follow, went bowing before his cart, but the Cadi, wounding his horse in the flank, he gave a spring, tumbled the poor wretch down and drove over him. Another following him, ran to assist his fellow creature, but the Cadi threw his dart and struck him in the shoulder; the slave drew it out, and upon his knees presented it to him again, which the Cadi (when the man had got a little distance from him) darted the second time into his body! The poor creature drew it out once more, and, covered with blood, gave it to him back again, but as he was stooping, he fell down with loss of blood at the barbarian's feet, who did him the favour to pin him to the earth through his back.

The Cadi is said to possess a great deal of wit and courage, is very active and expert in riding and hurling the dart.



He drinks no wine because his religion forbids it, but when he takes opium, or drinks a certain mixture that he makes himself, compounded with brandy, cinnamon, anniseed, cloves and nutmegs, woe be to him that comes in his way. He is much addicted to women, having no less than four hundred concubines.

The Moors shave their heads close, except one lock upon the crown of their heads, which they never cut off, they being taught that by that lock Mahomet is to draw them up to their imaginary paradise.

I could not forbear smiling to see the policy practised by the Moors in one instance; walking one day about a mile from Tenis, after my release from captivity, it began to rain violently, I got under a tree to shelter myself from the tempest, but I observed several of the Moors undress themselves with a great deal of precipitancy, make up their clothes in a bundle, and sit on them stark naked; this was to prevent their being wet, while their naked bodies were exposed to the fury of the storm. When it ceased to

rain, they walked a little way till their bodies were dry, and then dressed themselves.

The dress of the Moors chiefly consists of a robe or caften of serge, woolen stuff, or blue and white cotton, and sometimes, but very seldom, of silk. They are also clothed in a shirt, which is tied round the neck, and is so wide as to fold two or three times about the body; this is bound round the waist by a sash, in which is stuck a long knife like a bayonet, and sometimes two. The dress of both the men and women consists of such a large shirt, generally of black linen, and a cloth with which the women cover their head and shoulders; the men sometimes rolling it about their heads, in imitation of a turban, and sometimes round the middle. Some of the women wear their hair tied up in a knot, and others let it hang down; but the men are in general very negligent about it. They wear sandals, or rather socks, of Morocco leather, which raise to the small of the leg; and their heads are covered with a red bonnet, or cap, bordered with cotton. The

long loose robe of white or striped cotton, or woollen stuff, above described, which they frequently wear over their capacious shirt, they call *halk*, and is extremely becoming. This robe has a long pointed hood that falls down behind, to the extremity of which hangs a tassel by a long string. However, the poor are clothed after the manner of the negroes.

The women, as I before mentioned, wear a long cotton shift; this has long and wide sleeves; they have likewise large drawers, and a piece of calico, or linen, that covers them from head to foot, and flows in an easy manner behind. They are all adorned with ear-rings and pendants, which are valuable in proportion to the wearer's station and quality.

When a considerable number of tents or cabins are placed together, and form a kind of town or village, they call it *Adouar*. These villages are usually of a circular form, the tents standing very thick, and in the centre is an empty space in which they keep their cattle. They have centinels on every side of this encampment, to guard against surprises



from robbers, and from wild beasts. On the least appearance of danger, the alarm is given by the centinels, and soon spreads over the camp; upon which every man able to bear arms stands on his defence. As these people never encumber themselves with much household furniture, these villages are easily transported from place to place. Indeed, all the domestic implements belonging to a family, are contained in a bag, or sack, which is easily conveyed tent and all, on the back of a camel to any distance. Their usual drink is milk or whey; and their bread, cakes made of millet. No inducement can engage them to continue a whole season in one place; for however useless and unnecessary their excursions may be, they would consider such an instance of inactivity as highly culpable.

When they happen to have a stock of wheat or barley, they deposit it in deep pits hewn out of the rock; these they contrive with abundance of art, in order to cause a constant draught of fresh air through the whole cavern, which is narrow at the entrance, and gradually en-

larges itself in proportion to its length, which is sometimes above thirty feet.

In some parts of the country the people it is said have portable mills, with which they grind their corn as they want it. Their manner of eating resembles that of the Asiatics. At their meals they sit cross-legged round a covering of leather, or a mat of palm leaves, spread upon the ground, upon which their dishes or plates of copper or ivory are laid; and they never drink till they rise in order to wash, a ceremony that cannot be omitted without the greatest indecency. They never allow themselves more than two meals a day, one in the morning and the other at night, and the women are never allowed to eat with the men. Their repast is short and silent, not a syllable being uttered till they have washed and returned to their pipe and coffee, and then conversation begins.

From this temperance in their meals, arises that strong health which renders them strangers to medicine, the study of which was so much cultivated by their predecessors. The only distempers to

which they are subject are dysenteries and pleurisies, both which they are said to cure by the internal and external application of simples. The inhabitants are said to live to a great age, without experiencing what sickness is, seldom dying before the animal powers are wasted by years. With them a man at sixty is said to be in the prime of life.

They believe that the less they are connected with foreigners, and the more strictly they adhere to their primitive manners, the fewer are their maladies and diseases, and the greater their happiness.

The mothers have a passionate fondness for their children, and take the utmost care to prevent their being injured by any accident. The boys are permitted to marry as soon as they can purchase a wife, which is done by presents to the parents, of camels, horses, and horned cattle. They estimate the affection of the husband from his liberality, and the young lady is never delivered to him till by his presents he has made her parents sensible of his merits. If upon her be-



ing brought home he is disappointed in his expectations of her beauty or chastity, he may send her back; but in this case he forfeits the presents he has made.

A man has no sooner breathed his last, than one of his women, or some relation, puts her head in at the door of the tent, and bursts into a terrible cry; upon which all the women within the village set up a lamentable shriek and dismal screams, which alarm the whole camp or village.

With respect to the learning of the Moors, it is so extremely limited, that few of them are able to read or write; yet some of them have a tolerable notion of astronomy, and talk with precision upon the stars, their number, situation, and division into constellations. The clear and serene sky in which they live, has greatly assisted their observations, which advantage they have improved by a warm imagination and a happy memory: their system of astronomy is, however, so replete with fable and absurdity, that it is in general difficult to comprehend their meaning; yet with all their

ignorance, they seem formed by nature for liberal sentiments, and with a taste for the polite arts, as their essays in poetry and music, which are far from being contemptible, seem to indicate.

From the softness and effeminacy of their music, it might be inferred, that these people are not very warlike; but if we may judge from some of their maxims, they are far from being pusillanimous. "Can any thing," they say, "be more dastardly, than to kill a man before you approach him near enough to be distinguished?" Hence they never attack an enemy till they come within the length of their lances, and then retiring to a proper distance, throw them or shoot their arrows with surprising dexterity. They fight chiefly on horseback with short stirrups, and by raising themselves high in the saddle, strike with great force. They never draw up their cavalry in long lines and extended wings, but in small detached squadrons, by which means they are less liable to be broke or thrown into confusion; and when such an accident happens, are more easily formed.

The cruel oppressions which the Moors of Tenis suffer under the tyrannical government of Algiers, have greatly contributed to their degeneracy; and a more abject condition than theirs can scarcely be conceived.

Can we imagine a situation more adapted to depress the human mind, or render man completely miserable? But it is far from producing these effects: from their unparalleled patience, under these various kinds of what others would esteem the greatest wretchedness, they enjoy a tolerable share of happiness.

On seeing a number of these Moors sitting at the doors of their wretched cots, half naked, some smoking and telling merry tales, others singing or dancing, one would conclude them to be a happy, though a lazy people.

There are but few Turks in Tenis, they are a wretched crew of indigent, ragged, thievish fellows. These wretches being furnished with a gun, a sword, and other arms, are incorporated into some regiment, and soon obtain a vote and share in the government; and from



that situation are raised from one post to another, till they obtain those of admiral, vizier, and even bey. The Turks treat their slaves very barbarously, at night they confine them in dungeons, and in the day time compel them to toil in chains, and frequently allowing them only a little bread and water.

Having in the preceding pages minutely described the manners and customs of the Moors, who are the principal inhabitants of Tenis, I shall now proceed to give a more particular account of my own sufferings while among them.

My Turkish master having completed his business, after a few moments conversation with his son, by whom I had been guarded, commanded me to arise and follow him. I was conducted through several filthy lanes and alleys, which led to the habitation of my new master—the house was large and commodious but not elegant—he was the possessor of between forty and fifty christian slaves, all of whom, except ten, were Portuguese, nine of the latter were Napoleans, and one a native of England. I was indeed

extremely sorry to find one of my own countrymen in as deplorable a condition as myself, yet in him I found a real and valuable friend, and without the aid and assistance of whom, I should in all probability at this moment have been still held in bitter captivity.

My unfortunate friend (whose name was Malcome, and who had been five years in captivity) informed me that our master was grand Vizier of the city, and a great favourite of the then reigning Bey of Algiers—that he was a blood-thirsty, cruel and inhuman monster, who, to his knowledge, had put several of his slaves to death for no greater fault than that of complaining of indisposition, and an inability to perform their daily tasks.

He mentioned several instances wherein he had been most unmercifully tortured for attempting to communicate information of his captivity, to the English Consul, at Algiers—his nails had been torn from his fingers and toes, and his whole body lacerated in a manner not to be described. I could not discover one among the whole number of slaves claim-

ed by the tyrant, but what wore some indelible mark of his severity. Some had lost a limb, some an eye, and others the nails of their fingers and toes!—To me, this was indeed a shocking spectacle!—it gave me to understand what kind of treatment I should myself receive, if so unfortunate as to incur the displeasure of the wretch.

Soon after my arrival I was divested of my clothing, and presented with a suit like those worn by the other captives; I was then conducted into an adjoining out-house, which proved to be the cookery house, where the victuals for the slaves was daily prepared. On my first entrance I was much pleased to witness a number of my own sex employed, and who I judged by their dress and appearance were captives; I could not but flatter myself with the fond hope that I should find some one among them with whom I should be enabled to converse, but this fond hope was of but short duration, for I soon found that although slaves, they were all natives of Portugal, and whol-



ly unacquainted with the English language.

As soon as I entered, I was ordered to proceed immediately to business; we had placed over us as overseer, a woman, who if possible, surpassed her employer in acts of barbarity; she was a native of Morocco, and seemed to glory in having it in her power to torture and torment us, by every means and in every way that her inventive faculties could give birth to.—The wretch would not unfrequently compel us for the least offence to strip ourselves naked, and then stand for a given number of minutes within a few feet of a blazing fire!—at other times she would throw hot embers and coals of fire into our bosoms; and shocking as it may appear, she in my presence deprived of life a poor unfortunate girl, by strewing her naked body with hot rice!—Under the controul of such a governess, my readers will acknowledge that my situation must have been truly wretched; but, alas! we were slaves! and to a barbarous and unprincipled monster, deprived of our liberties, and compelled like beasts of

burden to toil from morn to night!—our sighs and tears availed nothing, they were only productive of stripes!—there were but few among our number but would have chosen death rather than life.

Confined and employed with the other slaves, in cooking, &c. as before mentioned, nothing worthy of record took place until about 13 months from the time of my capture, when the thundering of cannon announced the approach of an event of no little magnitude. About 3 o'clock, P. M. orders were received from the grand Vizier (our master) for us to repair as soon as possible to a fortification at the harbour's mouth; on arriving at which, we discovered the cause of the alarm.—The Napoleans with a well-manned fleet of gun-boats, &c. had commenced a tremendous cannonade on the city, and we were ordered here for the purpose of conveying ammunition to the besieged, from the magazine, a business always allotted female captives in time of action. At half past 7 A. M. the cannonade became terrible, while all was bustle and confusion among the besieged; they

discharged some few cannon against their assailants, but without doing apparent injury. At 2 P. M. the firing ceased, but at 4 it again commenced, when red hot balls were thrown into the city, and with so good effect, that in a few moments the castle, together with most of the public buildings were set on fire, and the greatest part of the city reduced to ashes; the slain and wounded were immense. I was at this moment employed as I had been during the whole siege, in furnishing the Algerines with powder, yet I could have a fair view of what was going on, and was not a little pleased to see many of that barbarous nation made to bite the dust!

The Napoleons having expended all their powder, and probably feeling satisfied with the injuries they had done their enemies, sailed out of the harbour in triumph at sun-rise, the succeeding morning; orders were immediately thereupon issued for the prisoners (who had been employed in defence of the city) to assemble and assist in removing the rubbish and in burying the dead.—What



a scene presented to view! the streets strewed with the dead and dying! On whatever side I turned my eyes, my attention was attracted by mangled bodies and detached limbs, bleeding afresh. Among a number of captives employed in burying the dead, I thought I recognized my unfortunate husband, but dare not approach him, as my master kept a watchful eye on me.

The business allotted the female captives, was to strip the dead, after which they were thrown into waggons and drawn off by the male captives, to what place I could never learn. The wounded were carried on the shoulders of captives to the hospitals, where they were visited by the Cadi, and presented with six dollars each.

After the bustle and confusion had a little subsided, we were again ordered to our place of confinement and labour, from whence we had been taken, we had not, however, been long here before we were again aroused by the discharge of cannon, and beating of the raritoo, a customary signal for the slaves to assemble.

It was at this moment that I could plainly perceive a sudden change of countenance in my fellow captives, those in an especial manner who had been long in captivity. Our governess hurried us off as quick as possible to the castle, at the door of which were assembled (as I judged) nearly 1000 people, and the captives were then continually flocking in. About 3 P. M. orders were given by the grand Vizier (my master) for the forming a procession, and it was at this moment that I learned the cause of our assembling: it appeared that during the late action, a captive belonging to the Cadi had made an attempt to escape, by swimming to one of the enemy's boats, but was observed, pursued and retaken. The affair so exasperated the Cadi, that he gave orders for his immediate execution. For the information of the reader, it may be well to mention, that on all such occasions, it is ever customary for the captives to attend, generally, that they may be eye witnesses to those scenes of savage torture, inflicted by the barbarians on such as attempt an escape, in order to deter them from mak-

ing a like attempt—this is customary throughout all Barbary.

About 4 P. M. a procession was formed, which moved to the place of execution in the following order, viz.—the grand Vizier in front, mounted on a buffalo, on his right and left six Marabouts preceded by his Mamalukes, the latter attend him on such like occasions to guard his person, while the former ever accompany him to protect him from the powers of infernal spirits, for so credulous is he, that he doubts not but they are vested with power to do any thing—next in succession followed a body of Turks, about 150 in number, armed with spears, cimeters and darts, and next followed the unhappy captive, pini-  
oned and mounted on a jack-ass, with his back toward the animal's head; the spectators and prisoners brought up the rear. At half past five we arrived at the fatal spot where the poor unfortunate captive was to suffer; we were ordered to form a semi-circle around the machine of torture, which bore the resemblance of a slitting mill, and when in motion,



was so constructed as to cut the wretched victim into as small pieces as one's little finger.

The grand Vizier dismounted and ascended a lofty stage, a station always prepared for him on such occasions, and from which he gave orders for his executioners (three barbarous looking Turks) to bring forward the unhappy victim, at the same time commanding silence. The poor fellow was instantly dismounted and led up to the accursed machine; he was next stripped and his body washed by the Marabouts with a liquid as black as ink, this they do to prevent Christians gaining admission among the saints of Mahomet, as they persuade their master that with the body, the soul is also coloured! The executioners were now ordered to perform their duty! One of them approaching the prisoner, threw him upon his back, and then pinioned him hand and foot; a cord about the bigness of a person's thumb was next made fast to his left leg, a little above the ankle bone, with which, by means of a windlass, he was drawn to the fatal shears, which at

the very moment were set in motion, slicing his left foot and leg in pieces of less than half an ounce weight!—A scene like this, was too much for human eyes to witness! A view of which, I was enabled to prevent, by closing my eyes; but, alas! I could not close my ears against the shrieks and heart-piercing cries of the unhappy sufferer!—the pains of death, and torment, were of but short indurance, for shocking to relate, in less than six minutes, there was not a piece of the unhappy sufferer to be found of the bigness of a dollar, there appeared nothing of him but a mass of goared flesh cut into a thousand pieces.

When these savage monsters had sufficiently glutted themselves with the blood of their victim, orders were given for the re-forming of the procession, which was immediately done, we returning in the same manner as we came, my master riding in front brandishing his cimeter, the point of which, the callous hearted wretch had taken pains to stain with the blood of the murdered captive, as a token of triumph!

I was on my return again committed to the charge of my unprincipled governess, and by whom I was immediately reconducted to the house of confinement and labour, from which I had been taken. In this dreary abode I much expected to spend the remainder of my days, yet hope, the soothing balm of life, would sometimes revive my drooping spirits; the pleasing anticipation of once more gaining my liberty, would sometimes afford moments of imaginary pleasure.

After a close confinement of nearly three years, I was one evening visited by my master, who was accompanied by my friend Malcome; the latter had been nearly eight years in captivity, and had learned to speak the language of the country extremely well, and many times proved serviceable to his master as an interpreter. Happily for me, this man was my friend,—he could converse with me in presence of his master upon any subject with safety, as the Vizier understood not a word of English.—He informed me that his master pretended to har-



bour an unusual degree of love for me, and through fear of being betrayed and punished agreeably to the laws of the country, should he attempt by forcible means to gratify a lustful passion, he had commanded him to solicit my compliance, and to inform me, that if I would willingly consent to indulge him in what he should request, he would extend to me the same liberty which his wives (or concubines) enjoyed:—but, continued my friend Malcome, fear not, do not be terrified at his threats; he will no doubt do every thing in his power to compel you to comply with his request, but should he attempt any such thing against your will, he will lose his head. This conversation was held in the presence of my ruffian master, to whom my friend was to interpret my answer, which he informed me he did in the following words—viz. That I would never consent to gratify him in his unlawful request, as it would be in direct violation of the laws of my God and my country.

The villain, after brow-beating me for

this unexpected reply, desired Malcome to inform me that he would give me a day to consider on it, but if I should then refuse, he would adopt such a plan as should soon make me repent of my folly—saying this, he left me; but my mind was endowed with that fortitude, that I resolved sooner to die, than to submit to his brutal proposals.

Early the succeeding morning I was again called upon by my master, accompanied by my friend Malcome, through whom inquiry was made whether I had concluded to comply with his proposal; my answer, as interpreted by my friend was, "No! I will sooner suffer death!" This was an answer as displeasing as it was unexpected to the tyrant—he became now like a mad-man, drawing his dirk he threatened me with instant death, unless I would immediately comply with his request; but finding that I still persisted in my determination, he left me, swearing that my obstinacy should yet cost me my life! All this was interpreted to me by my friend, who, as he

retired, told me that he would do all in his power to protect me from the violence of the wretch.

The plan next pursued by my master to accomplish his wishes, was, to represent me to his friend, the bey, as a person sent into the country to conspire against the government! This plan, in part, had its desired effect, for no sooner was the bey informed of this, than he ordered me to be conveyed immediately to Sersel (situated within a few miles of the city of Algiers) there to be confined in irons, in an apartment of an old castle.

The room in which I was confined was built of rough stone, and the walls were about eight feet in depth; it contained but one small window, with large iron gratings, and which afforded so little light that I could hardly discern an object six feet from me. My furniture consisted of a three legged stool, and a gallon stone jug, which was occasionally filled with stinking water.

On the second day of my confinement, a smith entered my apartment with a hammer and chains in abundance, which,



alas! I too soon found were to be attached to my body!—an enormous collar was put round my neck, and another still larger round my waste, to both of which was attached a large iron chain, the end of which was secured by a ring in the wall. This ring was five feet from the ground, and only allowed me to sit down on the stool before mentioned.

In this situation they left me, helpless and wretched, preyed on by all the torture of thought, that continually suggested the most gloomy, the most dreadful images. My fortitude after some time began to revive, I glowed with the desire of convincing the world I was capable of suffering what man had never suffered before. Often did I reflect how much happier I was in innocence, than the malefactor doomed to suffer the pangs of death, the ignominy of men, and the horrors of internal guilt.

The enormous iron round my neck pained me, and prevented motion. The chains that descended from the neck collar were obliged to be supported first with one hand, and then with the other; for

if thrown behind, they would have strangled me, and, if hanging forwards, occasioned most excessive head-achs. The little sleep I could have in such a situation may easily be supposed, and at length body and mind sunk under this accumulation of miserable suffering, and I fell ill of a burning fever. Reason, fortitude, heroism, all the noble qualities of the mind decay, when the corporeal faculties are diseased, and the remembrance of my sufferings, at this dreadful moment, still agitates, still inflames my blood, so as almost to prevent an attempt to describe what they were. Yet hope had not totally forsaken me. Deliverance seemed possible, especially should the consul learn my situation.

I continued ill about two months, and was so reduced at last, that I had scarcely strength to lift the water jug to my mouth. What must the sufferings of a female be who is confined in a dungeon so damp, so dark, so horrible, without bed or straw, her limbs loaded as mine were, with no refreshment but dry mouldy bread, without so much as a drop of broth, without

a consoling friend, and who under all these afflictions, trusted for her recovery to the efforts of nature alone!

Sickness itself is sufficient to humble the mightiest mind; what then is sickness with such an addition of torment! The burning fever, the violent head-achs, my neck, swelled and inflamed with the irons, enraged me almost to madness. The fever and the fetters together, fleeced my body, so that it appeared like one continued wound.—Yet can it be supposed? there came a day—a day of horror, when these mortal pangs were increased!—I sat scorched with this intolerable fever, in which nature and death were contending, and when attempting to quench my burning entrails with cold water, the jug dropped from my enfeebled hands and broke! I had four-and-twenty hours to remain without water.

On my attendants visiting me the next day, they supposed me dead, as I lay motionless with my tongue out of my month. They poured water down my throat, and found life.



Gracious Being! how pure, how delicious, how exquisite, was this water! My insatiable thirst soon emptied the jug, they filled it anew, bade me farewell, hoped death would soon relieve my mortal sufferings, and departed.

Three days had passed before I could again eat a morsel of bread. The irons every where round my body, and their weight was insupportable; nor could I imagine it was possible I should habituate myself to them, or endure them long enough to expect deliverance. A thousand reasons convinced me it was necessary to end my sufferings. I shall not enter into theological disputes: let those who blame me imagine themselves in my situation; or rather first let them actually endure my miseries, and then let them reason.

What strange thing is that called happiness? How shall I express my extreme joy, when after eleven months intolerable hunger, I was indulged with a sweet loaf of bread free from mould? The fond lover never rushed more eagerly to the arms of his bride; the famished tiger

more ravenously on his prey than I upon this loaf; I eat, rested, surveyed the precious morsel, eat again, and absolutely shed tears of pleasure.

Oh nature! what delight hast thou combined with the gratification of thy wants! remember this, ye who rack invention to excite appetite, and which yet you cannot procure; remember how simple are the means that will give a crust of mouldy bread a flavour more exquisite than all the spices of the east, or all the profusion of land or sea; remember this, grow hungry, and indulge your sensuality.

Alas! my enjoyment was of short duration. I soon found that excess is followed by pain and repentance. My fasting had weakened digestion, and rendered it inactive. My body swelled, my water jug was emptied, cramps, cholics, and at length, inordinate thirst racked me all night. I began to pour curses on those who seemed to refine on torture, and after starving me so long to invite me to gluttony. Could I not have seated myself on my bench, and inclined my

back against the wall of my dungeon, I should indeed have been driven to desperation: yet even this was but a partial relief. When my attendants opened my dungeon, they found me in a truly pitiful situation, wondered at my appetite, brought me another loaf; I refused to accept it, believing I should never more have occasion for bread; they however left it with me, gave me water, shrugged up their shoulders, and left me.

God of omnipotence! what was I at this moment! Was there, God of mercies—was there ever a creature of thine more justified than I in despair?—The moon shone clear; I cast a wild distracted look up to heaven, fell on my knees, and, in the agony of my soul, sought comfort, but no comfort could be found, nor religion, nor philosophy had any to give. I cursed not Providence, I feared not annihilation, I dared not Almighty vengeance: God the Creator was the disposer of my fate; and if he heaped afflictions upon me, he had not given me strength to support, his justice would not therefore punish me.



Early one morning I heard the doors of my dungeon unbarring—the doors of my dungeon for the last time resounded!—a gentleman clad in Christian habit accompanied by the keeper, entered—joy beamed upon his countenance—it was the English Consul. “I have come madam, (said he) to liberate you from unjust and cruel bondage!” Oh! what joy did I feel on the occasion; it was a long time before I could be convinced of the truth of what he told me, nor could I believe it until a smith was sent for to knock off my irons.

I was now re-conducted out of the dark and dismal dungeon, in which I had been closely confined for three years. It appeared that my friend Malcome, in the absence of his master, had been favoured with an opportunity to escape, which he improved and arrived in safety at Algiers here he found the English consul, and to him related the particulars of his captivity, and informed him of my wretched situation, and the principal cause of my unjust imprisonment. The consul, accompanied by the informant waited upon the

bey, and made a demand of me as one of his Britannic majesty's subjects, unjustly and unlawfully held in captivity. The bey at first discredited the story of Malcome, and seemed confirmed in the belief that I had been sent into the country for some treasonable purpose, but on being assured by the consul that he would leave the country within twenty-four hours if I was not immediately released, the bey consented to deliver me up.

The consul conducted himself with a great deal of humanity towards me, he procured for me a suit of clothes of which I was very much in want, and promised to procure me a passage to England as soon as possible.—I acquainted him with the misfortunes of my husband and those who were saved from the ship, but was unable to inform him what had become of them since I parted with them at the market house; he informed me that he would do all in his power to learn their fate, and if still living, he would procure their release immediately, but, added he, as it is not at the present moment convenient for me to go in search of them, and your

health being much impaired by long confinement, you had, I think, better embrace the first opportunity to return to your friends. I thanked him for his friendly advice as well as for the many services he had rendered me, and told him that I would do whatever he should think for the best. Accordingly, on the sixth day after my liberation, I once more embarked to visit my native country, with a view of which, after a tedious passage of 45 days, my eyes were once more regaled.

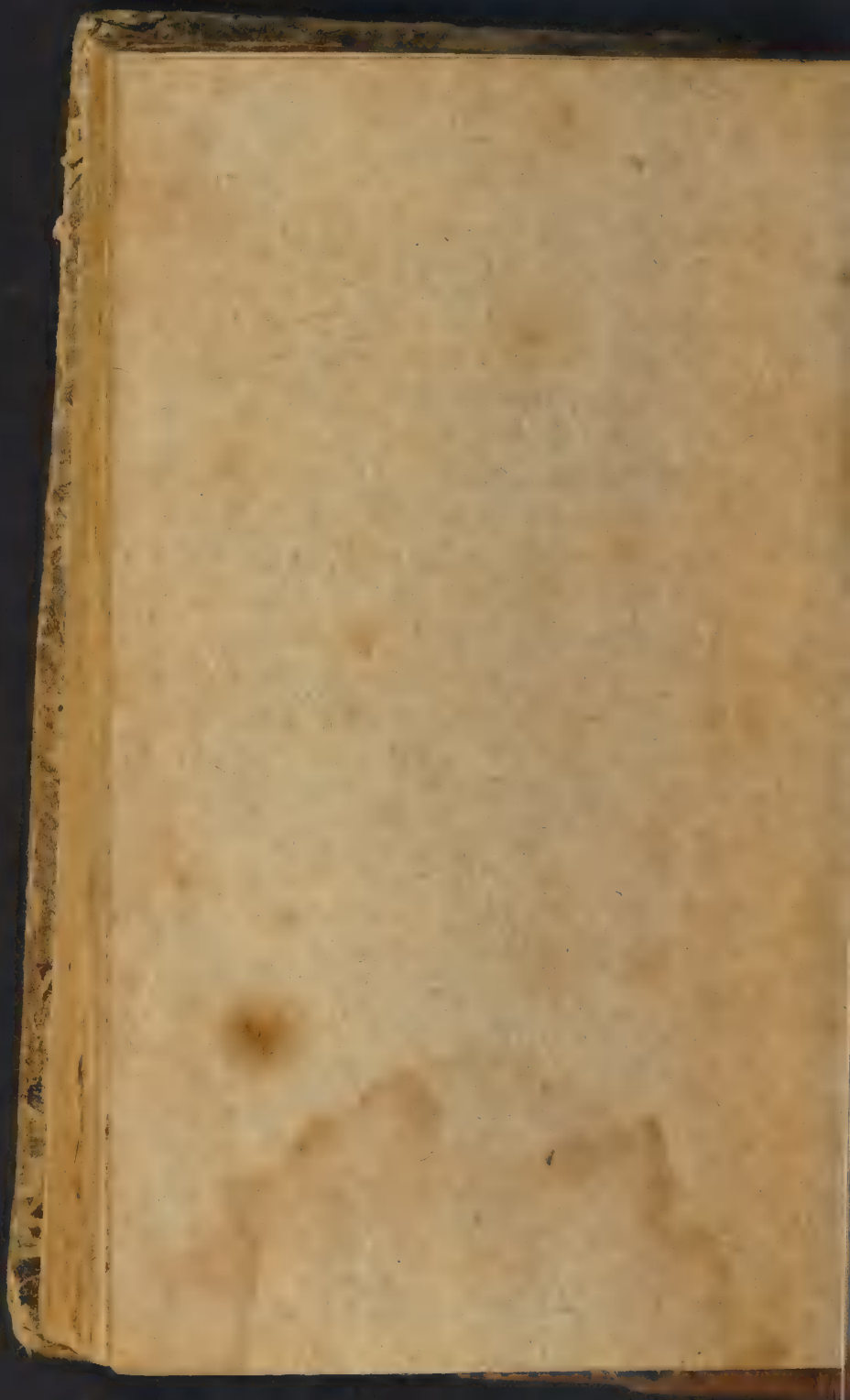
As soon as I landed, a carriage was procured for me, at the expense of the captain, to convey me to the dwelling of my parents. About sun-set I arrived, my aged father met me at the door; my sudden and unexpected arrival was too much for him, he fainted! Here it may be necessary to inform the reader, that as my friends had never received any news of the vessel or crew, they had concluded that we had all long since been buried in the deep.

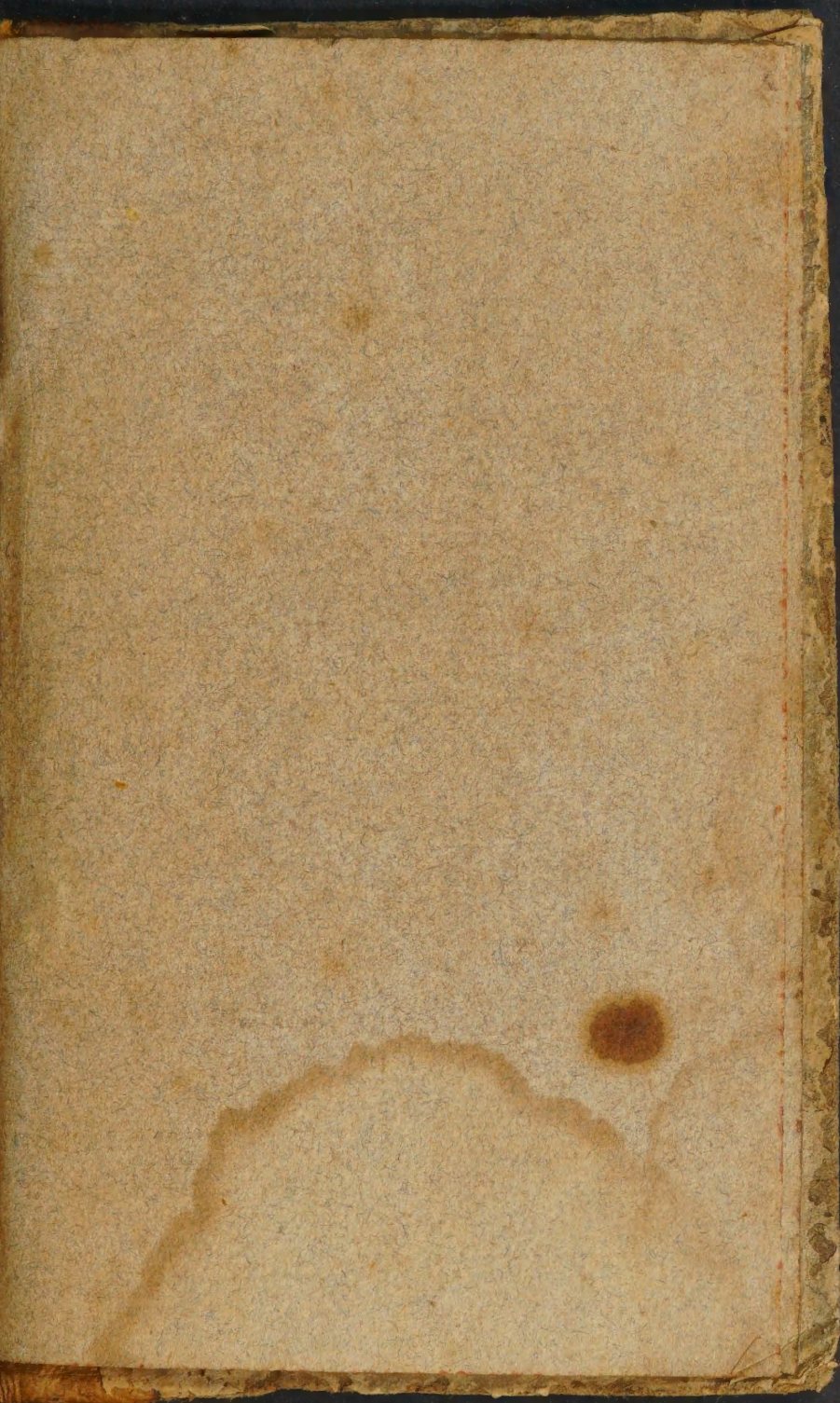
Although providentially restored to my friends, misfortune and disappointment



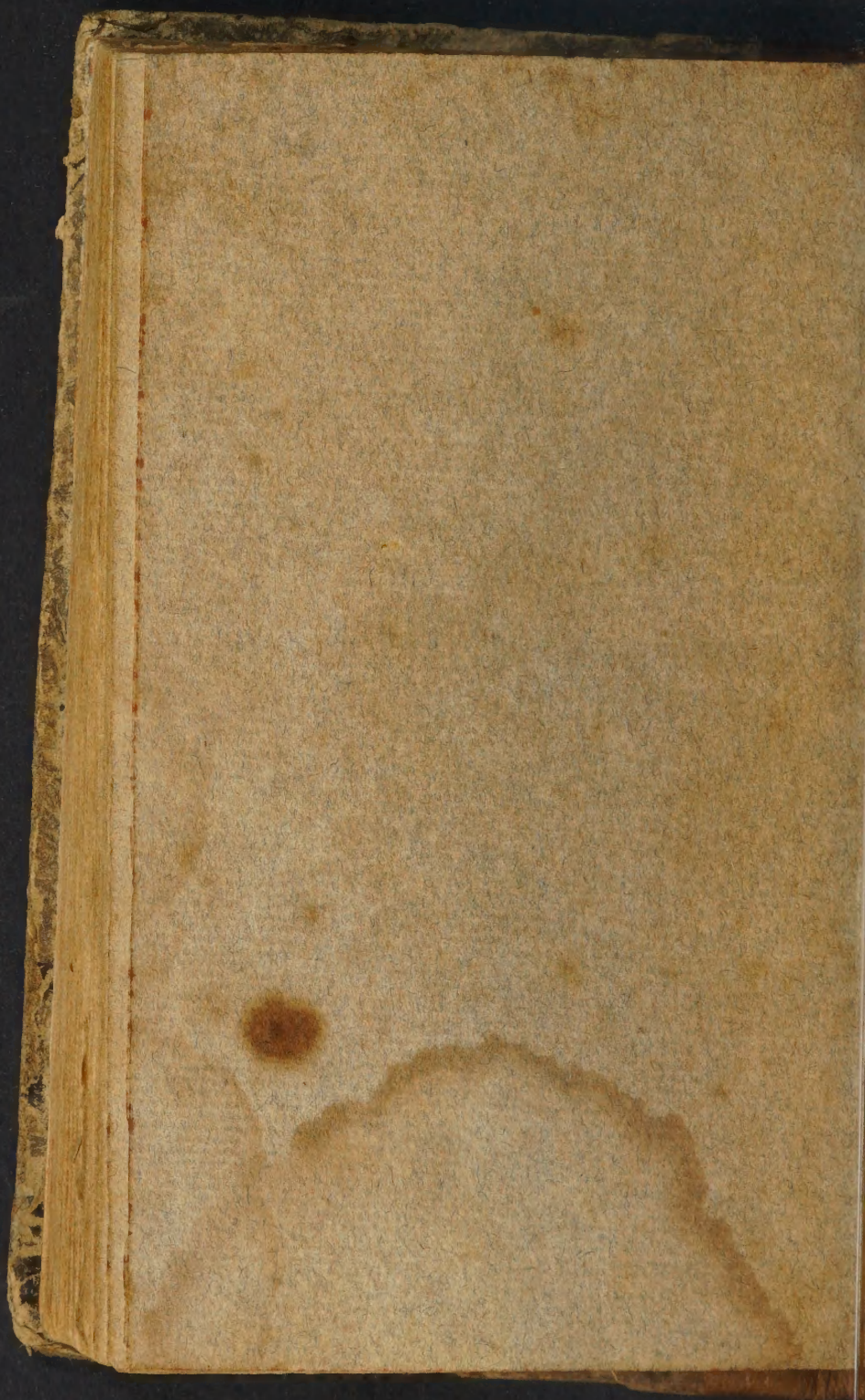
seemed yet to mark me as their own! I had been flattering myself with the fond hope that on my arrival, I should be so fortunate as to meet with my husband, whom I flattered myself might have possibly escaped, but no news of him had been received since his departure. But, with what pleasure do I close this melancholy relation of my sufferings, by adding that six months after my arrival, my husband arrived, and apparently in a good state of health, having obtained his liberty through the influence of the British consul.

THE END.











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